Bishop Bradley affirms Church’s teaching on marriage in light of Supreme Court ruling

The Supreme Court ruling redefining the definition of marriage and making same-sex marriage legal in all fifty states will not change the Church’s teachings. “The Church will continue to stand firm in our belief, and will not waver in our teaching,” of the ageless understanding of marriage as a faithful and fruitful relationship between one man and one woman,” said Bishop Bradley in a statement released on the day of the decision.

Following is Bishop Bradley’s complete statement: “The Supreme Court’s historic decision today redefining the institution of marriage raises serious concerns since it has changed the social fabric that serves as the very foundation of our society. Even as this decision puts the Church’s teaching at odds with the law of society, the Church will continue to stand firm in our belief, and will not waver in our teaching, of the ageless understanding of marriage as a faithful and fruitful relationship between one man and one woman.

“While there might be a profound difference of opinion with the Supreme Court’s decision regarding the institution of marriage, our disagreement should not be confused with discrimination or intolerance. We will continue our strong stance against unjust discriminatory actions against any person, regardless of their sexual orientation.

“As we express our disagreement with this decision, we reaffirm the Good News of God’s unconditional love for all people, and we pray that in this society, we will find the will to have respectful dialogue and tolerance for our differences, especially as we continue to build on what unites us. Our regret in the face of this decision, and its potential impact on religious liberty as well as countless numbers of current laws, does not in any way change Jesus’ constant teaching that we are to love all people. Individuals with same-sex attraction are deserving of respect and the same dignity God has given to all.”

For more on the Church’s teaching on marriage visit: www.michigancelebratesmarriage.com www.usccb.org/marriage-and-family

Vatican exhibit to open during World Meeting of Families, papal visit

By Shannon Bowen, Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Works of art including paintings, sculptures and rare artifacts from the Vatican will be on display just in time for the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis to Philadelphia this September.

More than 200 works of art, 40 percent of which have never been shown publicly anywhere, are part of the “Vatican Splendors” exhibit opening Sept. 19 at Philadelphia’s venerable Franklin Institute and running through February 2016. Officials with the families meeting and the institute announced the arrival of the exhibit during a news conference June 5.

Cover story continued – page 5

“In a statement, Ban noted that the pope’s visit came during the United Nations’ 70th anniversary, in which its members would make decisions about sustainable development, climate change and peace. He said he was confident the pope’s visit would inspire the international community to redouble its efforts for social justice, tolerance and understanding.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley has announced the following priest appointments for the Diocese of Kalamazoo which became effective July 8, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION

Msgr. Michael Osborn* (Not pictured) has been appointed General Secretary (Moderator of the Curia) and Vicar General, as well as Director of Vocations, effective August 1, 2015. Msgr. Osborn was previously assigned to Rome working in the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples. Msgr. Michael Hazard, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, continues as Vicar General.

Very Rev. Robert Creagan, V.E.,* has been appointed Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. Fr. Creagan continues as the Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage.

*previously announced

Mrs. Jennifer Callahan has been appointed Director of Stewardship and Development. In this role Jennifer will direct all stewardship and development efforts for the diocese including work with the diocesan capital campaign and the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. She will report directly to Bishop Bradley and become a member of the Bishop’s Leadership Team. Jennifer was most recently the Associate Vice President of Development at Western Michigan University. Her previous development work has included positions at Eastern Illinois University, American Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Foundations and National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Michigan. She earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s of Arts in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. David Reilly announced his decision to retire his full-time position as Director of the Office of Christian Worship which became effective June 30, 2015. David continues in his ministry in a part-time capacity beginning July 1, 2015. We are grateful for David’s 37 years of dedicated service to our diocese and look forward to continuing our work together in this new capacity.

PARISH COORDINATOR

Mr. John Dillon, has been appointed Parish Coordinator for St. Ann Parish, effective September 1, 2015. In his role as Parish Coordinator, Dillon will be responsible for the day to day administration, programs and ministries of the parish, including scheduling for “visiting” priests to celebrate Mass and other sacraments for the needs of the parishioners. In 2013, John and his wife Sylvia were appointed Deanery Coordinators of Domestic Church Outreach for the Southwest Deanery. Dillon brings 30 years of experience with diocesan ministry, he was the Assistant Director for the Office of Campus Ministry at the University of Notre Dame. In this role he directed marriage preparation, RCIA, Catechist formation and various religious education initiatives.

RETIEMENT

Rev. Donald Potts, Pastor of St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis will retire August 31, 2015 and assume Pastor Emeritus status, effective September 1, 2015.

DEPARTURE

Msgr. Leonel Cartanega, Diocese of Mocoa-Sibundoy, Colombia, has been recalled to his diocese at the request of the Archbishop and thereby concludes his pastoral ministry for the Diocese of Kalamazoo effective immediately. Msgr. Leo had been Pastor of Immaculate Conception, Hartford and has worked extensively with the Hispanic community throughout the diocese.

PRIESTLY APPOINTMENTS

Rev. James Adams, has been appointed Canonical Pastor for Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacey and St. Ambrose, Delton, effective August 1, 2015. Fr. Adams remains Pastor, St. Ann Parish, Augusta and chaplain for Hackett Catholic Prep High School.

Rev. John Peter Ambrose, MSFS, has been appointed Canonical Pastor for Immaculate Conception, Hartford, effective June 14, 2015. Fr. John Peter remains Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet.


Rev. Benjamin Huynh, has been appointed Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek. In addition he has been appointed chaplain for Bronson Battle Creek Hospital and Battle Creek as well as the three Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools (BCACS). Fr. Huynh was previously Parochial Vicar for St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo.

Rev. Francis Marotti, Parochial Vicar, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, will return to Rome to complete his graduate studies beginning September 1, 2015.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Rev. Edmund (Ted) Martin has freely resigned as Pastor, St. Margaret Parish, Otsego. Fr. Martin begins a three-month leave of absence from active ministry for personal reasons during which period he will have no priestly faculties.

PASTORS

Very Rev. German Perez-Diaz, has been appointed Pastor for Sts. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor. Fr. Perez-Diaz was previously Pastor, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and dean of the Southeast Deanery.

Rev. Antony Rajesh, MSFS, has been appointed Pastor for Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and its mission, St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon. He was previously Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek.

Rev. Evelio Ramirez, has been appointed Pastor for Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and its mission, St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon. He was previously Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek.

Rev. MarkVyerman, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima, Union City, has been appointed Dean of the Southeast Deanery.

Rev. Very German Diaz Perez, has been appointed Dean of the Lakeshore Deanery.

Rev. Paul Gomez, has been appointed Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek effective July 8, 2015. He was previously Parochial Vicar for St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima, Union City. In his new role Fr. Gomez will have particular pastoral care for the Hispanic communities in Battle Creek as well as St. Mary Parish, Bronson.

DEANS

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Rev. Rev. Very German Dia...
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

On Summer Days, Roses and Fallacies:

Picsnics, trips to the beach and relaxing in the sun are the typical activities for these early days of summer. Our normal daily schedule slows down a bit as our “to do” lists take a back seat to our vacation schedule. These summer days are also great for prayerful contemplation as we enjoy more hours of daylight and are inspired by nature’s beauty all around us. These more relaxing days allow us to take the time to ponder the current events taking place in our rapidly changing society.

There are definitely many events to ponder in our world these days. The Supreme Court’s historic decision last week on Obergefell v. Hodges redefines the institution of marriage looms as the most life-changing event for all citizens. With one stroke of the pen, the 5-4 decision changed the very social fabric of our American society. As I said in my official statement on that fateful day of June 26, 2015, “Even as this decision puts the Church’s teaching at odds with the law of society, the Church will continue to stand firm in our belief, and will not waver in our teaching of the ageless understanding of marriage as a faithful and fruitful relationship between one man and one woman.” [see cover for full statement.]

Another significant event last month was the publication of Pope Francis’ much anticipated encyclical, “Laudato Si: On care for our Common Home.” In this major teaching, our Holy Father addresses one of the most critically important moral issues of our day: ecology and global warming. As a good pastor, our Holy Father reminds us that our care for others and our care for the environment are integrally connected. The pope also warns that if we do not come together for action, our environment will deteriorate, which will have very serious implications for all humanity, most especially the poor and the vulnerable.

These are just a few of the issues that have sparked heated and, unfortunately, acrimonious, debate. Inflammatory news coverage and the wide range of people’s emotionally-charged opinions on these matters leave us sometimes shaking our heads in disbelief. I wonder what whatever happened to discussion based on the merits of the argument rather than heated and hateful personal attacks resulting in threats. As we watch our society being reshaped what does it mean for the freedom to live and practice our faith? What does it mean for future generations?

Our so-called “modern society/culture” would have us believe that there are no moral absolutes. Everything you do, everything I do, everything your neighbor does — it’s all fine for everyone to do whatever they choose to do. However, our common sense should lead us to conclude that this type of laissez faire approach to standards and moral absolutes will, sooner or later, destroy our society from the inside out. As long as we pay more attention to celebrity and superstar athlete’s antics while ignoring the world’s most pressing issues such as poverty, human trafficking, war, racial violence, religious persecution and the destruction of our environment, we will continue on a slow but steady path to societal decline. Remember the old story of “Rome burning while Nero played the fiddle”?

As theologian G.K. Chesterton once wrote: “Fallacies do not cease to be fallacious because they become fashions.” Or, as I like to say: Just because the majority of people might decide that a rose should be renamed (or redefined) a “weed” doesn’t make it any less a rose.

Today, we witness and engage in this type of “reductionism” or “moral relativism” all around us. Disagreement is labeled discrimination; long-standing and divinely revealed religious teaching is called hateful and those who teach it are labeled fanatics. When some people refuse to accept other people’s choices and actions, they are labeled as intolerant; freedom of expression and speech is denied to them.

Pope Francis said it best when he called moral relativism “the spiritual poverty of our time.” As he wrote: “The spirit of the world tempts us with the deceptive light of relativism, which obscures the splendor of truth and, shaking the earth beneath our feet, pushes us toward the shifting sands of confusion and despair.”

As our Catholic faith teaches, true freedom should not be equated with a license to do anything we want. Instead, freedom is the ability to use our God-given minds, hearts and will to discover His purpose for our lives, and be free to fulfill it. We should want and desire to exercise critical thinking and not be satisfied with a remedial understanding of our faith.

How do we confront the moral relativism of our day? We should avoid any kind of sanctimonious preaching or judgmental comments, and hold fast to the Gospel mandate: to reach out with God’s love to all people. When we, who have been baptized into the life of Jesus, live our lives according to the moral absolute of following Jesus through His Church in all that we do, then our very faith-motivated lives will be what attracts others to pay attention to what we have to say and how to live.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis seeks to inspire us to live our faith joyfully and proudly. He writes: “One of the more serious temptations which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, ‘sourpusses’. 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, keeping in mind what the Lord said to Saint Paul: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” (2 Cor 12:9).

Continued on page 4
Parishes celebrate 100th anniversaries

St. Ann Parish in Cassopolis
St. Ann Parish first became a mission of Holy Maternity Parish in July 1915. This year, they celebrate their 100th anniversary. In 1955, the mission broke ground on their current brick church, which doubled their seating capacity and also provided a social hall. In November 1958, St. Ann’s was canonically established as a parish. A farm house was purchased as the rectory and Rev. William Meyers became the first resident pastor. In 1973, a new wing was added to provide a kitchen, CCD classrooms, office space and meeting rooms. In 1992, property was acquired to increase parking space.

Rev. Donald Potts was appointed pastor in 1987, where he has led the parish since. Today, more than 102 year-round families attend St. Ann’s, with several additional families attending through the summer.

A 100th anniversary celebration will be held July 26th, beginning with 10 a.m. Mass and a dinner to follow. All are welcome. The celebration will also commemorate Fr. Potts’ 55th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. To send well wishes, memories or to RSVP, contact the parish office at 269-445-3000 or stannncass@frontier.com.

St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
St. Joseph Parish was formed in 1904 as a mission of St. Augustine Church and became an independent parish in 1910. Due to the growing community, a new building was dedicated on August 15, 1915 to increase the parish capacity. In commemoration of 100 years in the new church, St. Joseph will hold special Masses. Bishop Bradley will celebrate Mass on Saturday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m. Memorabilia will be on display at the church. Masses will be said at 8:45 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. A parish pig roast/picnic potluck will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. in the church parking lot. Church tours will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. There will be music, Spanish dancers and games for the kids. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to pass.

For more information, contact the parish office at 269-343-6256.

St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings
St. Rose of Lima Parish will celebrate the Centennial Jubilee of its stone church building in September. This celebration will take place over two weekends, beginning on Thursday, September 10th with Mass at 4 p.m. with Bishop Paul Bradley, Bishop Emeritus James Murray, St. Rose Pastor, Rev. Fr. Stephan Phillip and other clergy.

Following the Mass, there will be a 100 Year Anniversary potluck dinner in the church basement. The 100 Year celebration of the St. Rose church will continue into the weekend with special receptions after each of the weekend Masses on September 12th and 13th at 4:30 p.m on Saturday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

The celebration will continue the following weekend with the display of sacred relics on Friday, September 18th, Saturday, September 19th and Sunday, September 20th.
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

SAVE THE DATE: 
Diocese will host annual New Evangelization Conference on October 24
Saturday, October 24th, the Secretariat for Catholic Education and New Evangelization will host its annual New Evangelization Conference. This year’s theme is “Missionaries in the New Evangelization.”

The day-long event runs 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center.
This year’s keynote speaker will be Keith Strohm, an evangelist, presenter, retreat director and speaker with a passion for the New Evangelization. He also works as Director of Evangelization for Queen of the Rosary Parish in Chicago and teaches at the Catherine of Siena Institute.
New at the 2015 conference will be a school track for teachers and principals, with Sister Elizabeth Ann Allen, O.P., Director of the Center for Catholic Education and Assistant Professor of Education at Aquinas College in Nashville. For more information or to register, visit dioczo.org/new-evangelization.

Pope Francis JULY/AUGUST Intentions
JULY
Universal: That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity. Evangelization: That, amid social inequalities, life is substantial. tekst which includes participation from Pope Francis during his trip to the United States.

The pilgrimage will include participation in the papal Mass and World Meeting of Family events. In addition pilgrims will visit several religious and historical sites throughout Philadelphia. Prior to the arrival of Pope Francis, the WFM will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Possible sites the group will visit include the St. John Neumann National Shrine, St. Katherine Drexel Shrine, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and more. An exact agenda is dependent on time restrictions.

Pope Francis is expected to attend the WFM closing events, including the Festival of Families on Saturday and a papal Mass on Sunday, which will be open to the public on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The theme for the international meeting, chosen by Pope Francis, is “Love Is Our Mission: the Family Fully Alive.” Presentations will be focused around the theme and discuss the various challenges and opportunities today’s world places on families. Keynote speakers at WFM events include Fr. Robert Barron, Professor Helen Alvare, and Dr. Scott Hahn, among many others. Each pilgrim will be able to choose which breakout sessions they would like to attend. For more information on keynote and breakout session speakers or the World Meeting itself, visit worldmeeting2015.org.

The registration deadline is July 31. Cost per person (double occupancy) is $1,225 and includes transportation, six nights in a hotel, daily breakfast, two dinners and admission to the historical locations and shrines. For more information or to register, call Canterbury Pilgrimages & Tours, Inc. at 800-653-0017.

Sr. Mary Pung to be honored for her tireless years of service

Open House to be held August 17, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Kalamazoo

By Vicki Cessna
Sr. Mary Pung has helped college students find jobs, comforted patients and families as a chaplain, worked in pastoral ministry bringing people closer to God and since 2000 has worked tirelessly at the Catholic Community Center in Benton Harbor. After more than 50 years in ministry she’s retiring this summer from what she jokingly calls “compensated ministry” and is ready to begin a new chapter. Though beginning her official retirement on August 31st, Sr. Mary, who will turn 78 this September, shows no signs of slowing down. She already has plans to continue working with the JustFaith program at St. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, and to continue her work with her latest ministry called, “One Church, One Offender.”

“The program matches a low-level offender with a church community of their choice,” explains Sr. Mary whose role is to train a church committee of five to seven people. “The committee will meet with the person weekly to be a support and keep them on track.”

While the program is developing a bit slower than she would like, Sr. Mary has hope that it can continue to help transform lives. When asked what she found most rewarding in her ministry at the Catholic Community Center, a diocesan-supported program which provides community outreach services to the Benton Harbor and neighboring communities, Sr. Mary is quick to mention gratitude for learning more about the African-American culture and the ability to help people.

“I’ve taught a budgeting class, which is a requirement for anyone who wishes to continue receiving any of the services at the Center, and people tell me it’s made a real difference in their lives.”

Sr. Mary will be honored by Bishop Bradley with a reception on August 17th at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich., beginning at 2 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Continued Cover Story – Vatican exhibit

Philadelphia is the only East Coast destination for the exhibit in a two-city North American tour. The second city has not yet been announced.

“We are going to make Philadelphia shine its brightest in September,” said Donna Callery Farrell, executive director of the World Meeting of Families. “Vatican Splendors” will be a “stopover for visitors and Catholics in our region,” she said. “This is a beautiful opportunity that will connect them.”

The nearly 10,000-piece exhibit is a square-foot exhibit, organized into 11 different galleries, will consist of significant objects collected by Vatican Museums over the span of 2,000 years.

The exhibit includes objects from the ancient St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel; artwork by Michelangelo; historical maps, signed documents and a bas-relief sculpture; works by Baroque masters such as Bernini and Guercino; intricately embroidered silk liturgical vestments; uniforms of the papal Swiss Guard; artwork that dates to the first century; and bone fragments of SS. Peter and Paul as well as relics discovered at their tombs.

Organizers of “Vatican Splendors” hope to illustrate the evolution of the Catholic Church by highlighting important developments, people and events in history.

“The World Meeting of Families will bring Catholics closer to their faith in two ways—the celebration of family and also the laser focus on the role of the family,” said Farrell. “We are so blessed for the beloved Pope Francis to come to our area. The 1979 visit of St. John Paul II, 36 years ago, is still talked about. This will influence the Philadelphia area because it’s something that will be talked about for decades. It may encourage those who have been away from the church to come back, and this is something that will transform us.”

“Vatican Splendors” is a gift to Philadelphia, Farrell said, because visitors “will have the ability to see firsthand what you would normally have to travel to another continent to see.”

Between the events of Pope Francis’ visit, the World Meeting of Families and cultural highlights such as the Franklin Institute exhibit, the eyes of the world will be on Philadelphia for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Bowen writes for CatholicPhilly.com, the news website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Reservations available for diocesan pilgrimage to World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

Reservations are still open for the diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage, leaving Sept. 21st by bus, for the World Meeting of Families (WFM) which includes participation from Pope Francis during his trip to the United States.

The pilgrimage will include participation in the papal Mass and World Meeting of Family events. In addition pilgrims will visit several religious and historical sites throughout Philadelphia. Prior to the arrival of Pope Francis, the WFM will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Possible sites the group will visit include the St. John Neumann National Shrine, St. Katherine Drexel Shrine, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and more. An exact agenda is dependent on time restrictions.

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Tom is retired. “God shuffled the deck in my life when my wife, my brother, my parents, and my in-laws all passed away within 10 years. Now I look for the small moments in each day to live my faith. One way I do that is when I give away my shopping cart. Whenever I go in the grocery store and shake and pry a cart loose from the others, I look around to see who is behind me waiting their turn to wrestle with the things, and I give them mine. They are usually surprised and relieved, especially older folks or moms with babies. It’s an easy way to make people smile.”

Mary describes her faith this way: “First off, I’m not even a real Catholic. I was raised Episcopalian but I did RCIA when our daughter was in Catholic school. I couldn’t join the Church because I’m divorced and remarried, but we wanted to raise our daughter Catholic, so I took the classes to find out how to do that. Last Christmas, I had some money left, so I called the Ark and asked what they needed. The woman said, ‘We always need toothbrushes,’ but I could do better than that. I went to Macy’s and got everything on sale. It was fun. I dropped off two car loads. My husband says I should do it every month.’

Maybe, in the sixthtieth year, our spiritual journey is only beginning.
Human Trafficking — It’s not just a third-world issue

By Sarah DeMott

Human trafficking — it seems like something that we shouldn’t have to worry about in the 21st century. And yet millions of men, women and children are forced into sex or labor trafficking worldwide.

Following are some frightening statistics from the United Nation’s International Labour Organization’s 2012 Estimate on trafficking involving more than 20 Catholic organizations, each with its own network of concerned citizens working to eradicate trafficking. These organizations, including Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and four branches of USCCB, provide safe havens for trafficked children and young adults, conduct prevention projects overseas, provide training on the issue of trafficking and meet with government officials.

How to get involved to help end human trafficking

Become a mentor: One of the easiest ways to help fight against human trafficking at the local level is to become a mentor. Since one of the at-risk groups are children and teens who either runaway or do not have parents who are active in their lives, as a mentor you have the opportunity to show them their life has value.

Donate to the Catholic Fund against Human Trafficking: Get involved with the USCCB’s SHEDHERD program by hosting a workshop for your parish or organization to discuss the issue further and learn how to help identify potential or current victims, and how to help survivors.

Raise awareness: Invite professionals who work to eradicate trafficking or trafficking survivors to come speak to your organization.

Be an informed consumer: You can also help eliminate the demand for forced labor by being an ethical consumer. Make sure your legislators know allowing imports from the world’s highest forced labor locations is not acceptable.

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the national trafficking helpline at 1-888-373-7888.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, human trafficking is becoming one of the fastest-growing income sources for criminal groups worldwide. In fact, it is now the second fastest-growing criminal industry, second to the illegal drug industry. Often victims are lured by false promises of jobs, education or income. Then, traffickers hold victims’ identification documents, threaten the victim or their family, and use physical, psychological or sexual violence to keep their victims silent.

“Human trafficking denies the sanctity and dignity of human life,” says Lisa Irwin, Associate Director of the Sanctity of the Human Person for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. “No person is ever just a commodity to be used or sold. The more I learn about the reality of human trafficking, not just in other states or countries, but right here in the communities of Southwest Michigan, the more my heart breaks.”

Over the last 10 years, more is being done to fight back against human trafficking. As of 2014, there are 70 child exploitation task forces, involving 300 agencies. Three of the juvenile-focused task forces in Michigan include Southeast Michigan Crimes Against Children, Internet Crimes Against Children and West Michigan Based Child Exploitation. The first child sex trafficking case prosecuted federally in Western Michigan was just last year. Many cases involve law enforcement participation at the local, state and federal level.

Technology now plays a significant role in human trafficking. Sites such as Craigslist and Backdoor are easy ways for traffickers to advertise. It is also an easy way to recruit. Victims are lured by promises of easy money and a better lifestyle, but quickly become tangled up in a situation they are ill-prepared to handle. With juvenile sex trafficking, victims are often approached by traffickers via fake profiles, leading them to believe they are meeting a girl or boy around their age. They are convinced to either send private photos of themselves or to meet up, and are then blackmailed into participation for fear of their family, friends or community finding out.

Locating victims and extracting them quickly is paramount. When a child is prostituted, their life expectancy is only seven years if not recovered. Most sex trafficking victims are young, runaway girls between 13 and 17 years old. However, fighting to recover victims is not enough. It is also important to eradicate the behaviors and values that are leading people to believe paying for human beings, whether for cheap labor or as prostitutes, is acceptable. According to Andy Soper, founder of the Manasseh Project, which advocates for traumatized youth, delved deeper into what environment and culture leads individuals to become involved in human trafficking and how we can work to support those most at risk. The theme of all presentations reinforce that all human life has value.

“Becoming a prostitute, pimp or john is a learned behavior. It is the end of a continuum,” says Soper. “Every child should have five people who are crazy about them. We need to end the supply and demand relationally, by helping kids learn their value.”

Summer with a Mission

Local youth groups are making their summers count

By Sarah DeMott

For the typical teenager, summer is often filled with lazy days, fun and vacations. But for many local teens, their summers will also include time for faith and service. St. Margaret’s Parish in Otsego is hosting a week-long Home Town Mission. This is the group’s fifth summer participating in the Home Town Mission. Campers spend several hours a day performing service work around their parish and community. The nights are full of skits, talks, music, adoration, confessions and social time. Parishioners and other volunteers help chaperone and provide food for the campers.

“Faith is really part of the entire program, [highlighting]evangelization and teaching on key points of the world,” says youth group leader Joy Livingston. “This camp is a lot of work but it is one of my favorite events to work and complete. We receive so much more than we ever give to others.”

This year, Holy Maternity of Mary’s youth group will be attending Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) in Davison, Mich., in July. On their schedules are three summer Bible school programs, neighborhood clean-up, soup kitchen, food bank and more.

The theme of this year’s CHWC is “Amplify.” Teaching teens how to amplify their Catholic faith through living a life of service, being a voice for the poor and those in need, and doing it all in Jesus’ name. The 21 teens from Holy Maternity Parish will join more than 300 other Catholic teens from around the area.

“This is such a touching experience that our youth never forget and want to continue each year,” says youth leader Sue Ann Stewart. “We have some youth that have gone for four straight years and then go back with the youth as adults. This also gives our youth a chance to recharge their faith, bond with youth from other parishes, put their faith in action.”

The youth group from Holy Maternity of Mary Parish in Dowagiac joins over 13,000 youth nationwide at Catholic Heart Work Camp, spending a week in prayer, reflection and service.
Faith-filled fun trips to take this summer

By Sarah DeMott

Vacations can be fun and educational, while still incorporating your faith life. Following are some great spots in Michigan and Indiana.

**MICHIGAN**

**NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE CROSS IN THE WOODS**
7078 M-68, Indiana River, MI 49749
Call: 231-238-8973 or Website: www.crossinthewoods.com

This one is a “must-see” for Michiganders, especially now that St. Kateri Tekakwitha was canonized (October 21, 2012). In addition to St. Kateri, The Cross in the Woods includes shrines of various saints, including St. Francis of Assisi and St. Peregrine. The new church can seat up to 1,000 people and features a view of the Man on the Cross. You can also climb the Holy Stairs (representing the 28 stairs Jesus had to climb to Pontius Pilate) on your knees while praying and meditating.

**FUN FACT:** The “cross” in Cross in the Woods is called The Man on the Cross and is a bronze sculpture of the crucified Christ. It weighs seven tons, is 28 feet tall from head to toe and has an arm-span of 21 feet.

**SOLANUS CASEY CENTER**
17570 US Hwy 41, L’Anse, MI 49801
Call: 906-524-7021 or Website: www.solanuscenter.org

This Center is based around the Capuchin lifestyle, dedicated to Fr. Solanus Casey, a Capuchin priest. It has art, history and culture. Life-size beatitudes, a creation garden and a hall of etched glass saints are among the many things you can explore and be inspired by. You can take a tour led by the Center’s director, Fr. Larry Webber, on the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m., or purchase a keepsake booklet any day of the week which will guide you through the Center. And since it is less than a 10-minute drive away from the Kordes Center, you can even stay overnight at the Kordes Center for less than most hotels.

**FUN FACT:** Many reported healings have been attributed to intercessions of Fr. Solanus Casey and are being gathered by Vice-Postulators, who investigate reported miracles and help promote causes for beatification and canonization. Fr. Solanus Casey died in 1957, on the 53rd anniversary of his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said “I give my soul to Jesus Christ,” immediately before taking his first Mass.

**SHRINE OF BISHOP BARAGA**
17570 Wicker Ave (US 41), St. John, IN 46373
Call: 812-535-3131 or Website: www.spsmw.org

In 1840 Saint Mother Theodore Guerin established the Sisters of Providence on the same grounds they currently reside today. The Sisters oversee 1,200 wooded acres of land perfect for a relaxing, peaceful getaway. Things to see include visiting the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence, Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the beautiful Saint Anne Shell Chapel, Log Cabin Chapel, and the Stations of the Cross. The Providence Center’s Sunday Brunch has been rated the best for six straight years by the readers of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

**FUN FACT:** The White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, located on the Sisters’ grounds, was founded in 1996 to offer leadership and education in the preservation, restoration and reverent use of all natural resources. It provides awareness through organic agriculture, eco-justice education and social advocacy. At the White Violet Center, you can interact with a herd of alpacas, 343 acres of state-certified organic farmland, bees, berries, a water garden, a bluebird trail and a forest.

**ININDIA**

**SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS**
1 Sisters of Providence Rd., Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876
Call: 812-535-3131 or Website: www.spsmw.org

In 1840 Saint Mother Theodore Guerin established the Sisters of Providence on the same grounds they currently reside today. The Sisters oversee 1,200 wooded acres of land perfect for a relaxing, peaceful getaway. Things to see include visiting the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence, Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the beautiful Saint Anne Shell Chapel, Log Cabin Chapel, and the Stations of the Cross. The Providence Center’s Sunday Brunch has been rated the best for six straight years by the readers of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

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**THE SHRINE OF CHRIST’S PASSION**
10630 Wicker Ave (US 41), St. John, IN 46373
Call: 216-365-6010 or Website: www.shrineofchristspassion.org

The shrine is an interactive, half-mile long prayer trail depicting the last days of Jesus Christ’s life, from the Last Supper to His resurrection. Forty life-size bronze sculptures are placed throughout the trail in tableaus of the story of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection. Narration by Chicago broad-caster Bill Kurtis is available by pressing a button near each tableau. The shrine also features a 6,000-sq. ft gift shop and visitor center open year round. It is handicapped accessible and they offer club cars for those who are unable to walk the paved prayer trail. The pathway is lit for early evening use and is open year-round, weather permitting.

**FUN FACT:** More than 1,000 trees and bushes were planted on the site and more than 3,000 yards of stamped concrete were poured, with 80 semis of boulders brought in from Wisconsin. Each of the 40 bronze sculptures weighs 300-700 lbs.

**MONASTERY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
802 E. 10th St., Ferdinand, IN 47532
Call: 812-367-1411 or Website: www.immaculateconception.org

The Monastery Immaculate Conception has been home to the Sisters of St. Benedict since 1887. The convent’s church sits atop a hill, its dome rising 87 feet and visible from all around, earning the nickname “Castle on the Hill.” There are numerous shrines, statues, a Lourdes Grotto, an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a labyrinth for prayer and meditation. Guided tours are offered daily Tuesday through Sunday. You can even stay overnight at the Kordes Center for less than most hotels.

**FUN FACT:** The monastery’s bakery, For Heaven’s Sake, receives orders from all over the world, especially during the Christmas season. The bakery is famous for its signature hand-made “springerles” (anise-flavored cookies). Baked goods and more may be ordered online at forheavensake.org.

**MARY’S CHILDREN - MOTHER OF THE RE-DEEMER RETREAT CENTER**
8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington, IN 47404
Call: 812-825-4642 or Website: www.maryschildren.com

Only a few miles outside of Bloomington, the retreat center is a place of peace and prayer. It covers nearly 100 acres and includes a book store, convent, retreat center, rosary path and a shrine with a life-sized statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

**FUN FACT:** Retreats dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus take place the first weekend of every month. Franciscan Sisters and Friars of the Immaculate take up residence on the “farm.”

Seminarians go on the road to pray with parishioners

This year the annual seminarian summer tour began on Saturday, June 6 at St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Nashville) and concluded on Sunday, June 14 at Blessed Sacrament (Allegan). Along the way, the seminarians took part in Holy Hours and Masses throughout the entire Northern and Eastern Deaneries, which also included St. Joseph (Battle Creek), Sacred Heart (Watson), St. Stanislaus (Dorr), Sts. Cyril and Methodius (Gun Lake), St. Therese (Wayland), St. Ambrose (Delton), Our Lady of Great Oak (Lacey), St. Rose of Lima (Hastings), St. Jerome (Battle Creek), St. Mary (Marshall), St. John (Albion), St. Margaret (Otsego), St. Mary Visitation (Byron Center), and St. Philip (Battle Creek).

During the parish visits seminarians shared their personal vocation stories and answered questions about discernment, formation and the ordination process. Highlights of this year’s tour included the recitation of a walking rosary (with each decade prayed in a different language), working with parishioners on service projects, and getting to know the faithful people of the diocese.
Generous donations help build grade school in Africa

Thanks to the generosity of people from across the diocese hundreds of children in Africa, both Muslim and Christian, have been able to finish elementary school over the past 14 years.

Helping these students in Africa was the vision of then-Rev. Thomas Kabore who first came to Kalamazoo in the 1990s to work as an assistant at St. Augustine Cathedral. The young priest returned to Africa to be ordained a bishop by Pope John Paul II. Even though his ministry at the cathedral lasted only for one year, his experiences with the elementary school put the importance of education at the forefront of his mind and he started “Schools for All” in 2001, hoping to bring schools to poor countries like his home of Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Recently, Bishop Kabore decided to extend his vision past a 5th grade education and is working to build the first-ever secondary school in the province. This year, the women of St. Basil Parish, South Haven, who have raised thousands of dollars for the construction of the school, are making paper doves to be sold for any donation amount. Whenever someone makes a donation, they are asked to sign a paper dove, which will be sent to Africa to be hung as a symbol of the unity that ties us together as one holy, apostolic church. One-hundred percent of donations will be wired to Africa to help finish the school. Bishop Kabore hopes to enroll 280 children, half of which will be girls.

JustFaith social justice program inspires people to change

Founder returns to Kalamazoo area in August

By Vicki Cessna

Last September Geoff LaHaie attended “Hearts Wide Open,” a three-day evening event featuring JustFaith founder Jack Jezeel and he felt, what he terms, a “call to action.” He was inspired to participate in the JustFaith 27-week program which explores the Church’s social justice teachings.

“Being a good Christian is more than giving away the stuff that we don’t want anymore,” commented LaHaie, a St. Thomas More Student Parish parishioner. “It is about connecting with the less fortunate and being with them, helping them, treating them as people. It’s about recognizing the needs of the people on fringes of society and the situations that cause hardship for them.”

LaHaie is one of 40,000 people across the country that have participated in a JustFaith Ministries program begun by its founder Jack Jezeel, a popular national speaker and former pastoral minister.

The program involves weekly sessions where participants discuss different assigned books and readings exploring Catholic Social Teaching and also participate in retreats and hands-on service projects.

“I thought that picking up my garbage was social justice but it is so much more,” said Bobbi Otto, a JustFaith graduate and St. Basil, South Haven, parishioner.

Otto was daunted by the 27-week commitment and wondered whether she’d gain anything but was driven to attend by a desire to deepen her faith.

“I learned quickly that I certainly did not need to worry about what I would receive. I was overwhelmed to learn about and to gain an understanding of the systems in our world that sustain injustice where the vulnerable, the poor, and the marginalized are concerned. My eyes and my heart were opened to not what I could get, but what I might do to stop the cycle of social injustice.

When describing the change it has had on her life, Otto describes how her experience in the program permeates through all her encounters.

“I now try to see Jesus in everybody and everything. I was sitting in a meeting when I thought I was going to pass out. I had just started writing on a piece of paper. He pushed it in front of me. He had written ‘JF got to you!’ Yes, it did and I’m anxious to see how I will use the fruits of the program as my life moves forward.”

Having packed Holy Family Chapel at Nazareth last September, Jezeel is on his way back to Kalamazoo on August 25th for two separate sessions.

Jay Landry, pastoral associate with St. Basil, and a member of the planning committee has high praise for Jezeel.

“To be honest, Jack Jezeel is one of the best, inspiring, and humorous speakers that I have ever heard,” he said.

Jezeel will present “Making Missionary Disciples” from 1-4 p.m. This session is specifically geared toward clergy, church staff and lay leaders. Then later that same day he will present, “Transforming Our Hearts & The World” from 6-9 p.m. for everyone. The event will be held at Transformations Spirituality Center on Gull Road in Kalamazoo.

The cost to attend one or both events is $20 prior to August 18 or $25 at the door. Scholarships are available. Contact: Jay Freeland, St. Basil Catholic Church 574-339-3859; Norm Young, St. Catherine of Siena Church 269-324-6199; Brenda Hahn, St. Joseph Church 908-358-7507; Philip Dezern, St. Thomas More Student Parish 269-381-8917 or Nancy Servoss, Board Member 269-598-0936.


St. Mary of the Lake Church, New Buffalo

“Discovering the Power of God’s Word”

Sunday, August 23, 2015 • 3 pm

St. Mary of the Lake Church, 718 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117

Please join St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo and welcome Dr. Mary Healy as she presents “Discovering the Power of God’s Word.”

Presenter: Dr. Mary Healy – Associate Professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Mi and Senior Fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. She is general editor, with Dr. Peter Williamson, of the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture, and author of two of its volumes, “The Gospel of Mark” and “The Letter to the Hebrews.” In 2014 Pope Francis appointed her to serve a five-year term on the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Light reception to follow • Please contact parish office for more information. Call: 269-469-2637

Annual diocesan Blue Mass set for September 13

On Sunday, Sept. 13th, the Diocese of Kalamazoo will hold its 13th annual Blue Mass, recognizing the work and sacrifices of police, fire, EMT, and military personnel throughout Southwest Michigan. The Mass will be held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage at 11 a.m. and is open to the public.

A luncheon will follow, sponsored by the St. Catherine Council of the Knights of Columbus. All are welcome.
By Very Rev. Robert Barron

C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, and their colleagues in the Inklings wanted to write fiction that would effectively “evangelize the imagination,” accustoming the minds, especially of young people, to the hearing of the Christian Gospel. Accordingly, Tolkien’s Gandalf is a figure of Jesus the prophet and Lewis’s Aslan a representation of Christ as both sacrificial victim and victorious king. Happily, the film versions of both *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* have proven to be wildly popular all over the world. Not so happily, Joss Whedon’s “Avenger” films, the second of which has just appeared, work as a sort of antidote to Tolkien and Lewis, shaping the imaginations of young people so as to receive a distinctly different message. It is certainly relevant to my purpose here to note that Whedon, the aut-  thor behind *Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly*, and many other well-received films and television programs, is a self-avowed atheist and has, on many occasions, sig- naled his particular dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church.

I won’t rehearse in too much detail the plot of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Suffice it to say that the world is threatened by an artificial intelligence, by the name of Ultron, and has, on many occasions, signaled his particular dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church.

Although some have seen Biblical themes at work in all of this, I see pretty much the opposite, namely, an affirmation of a Nietzschean view of life. Whedon, who was a philosophy student at university, delights in dropping references to the great thinkers in his work, and one of the most cited in “Ultron” is none other than the man I take to be the most influential of the 19th century philosophers, Friedrich Nietzsche. At a key moment in the film, Ultron in fact utters Nietzsche’s most famous one-liner: “what does not kill me makes me stronger,” and the observation made by the newly-created Ultron is a neat expression of Nietzche’s doctrine of the eternal return of the same. At the heart of the German philosopher’s work is the declaration of the death of God, which signals that all values are relative, that we live in a space “be- yond good and evil.” Into that space Nietzsche contends, the Ubermensch, the superman, should confidently stride. This is a human being who has thrown off the shackles of religion and conven- tional morality and is able to exer- cise fully his Wille zur Macht (Will to Power). Asserting this will, the superman defines himself com- pletely on his own terms, effec- tively becoming a god. Here we see the significant influence of Niet- zsche on Sartre and the other existen- tialists of the twentieth century. *The Avengers* is a check-a-block with Ubermensch, powerful, willful people who assert them- selves through technology and the hyper-violence that that technology makes possible. And the most re- markable instance of this techno- logically informed self-assessment is the creation of the savior figure, who self-identifies with the very words of Yahweh in the book of Exodus. But he is not the Word be- come flesh; instead, he is the com- bining together of flesh and robotics, produced by the flexing of the all too human will to power. I find it fascinating that this pseudo-savior was brought about by players on both sides of the divide, by both Iron Man and Ultron. Like Nietz- sche’s superman, he is indeed bey- ond good and evil—which is precisely why he cannot defini- tively solve the problems that be- devil the human race and can only glumly predict the eternal return of trouble. If you have any doubts about the Nietzschean intention of Joss Whedon, take a good look at the image that plays as *The Avengers* comes to a close. It is aneo-classical sculpture of all of the major figures in the film locked in struggle, strangling one another. It is in complete conformity with the aesthetic favored by Albert Speer, Leni Riefenstahl, and the other artists of the Nazi period.

What the Christian evangelist can seize upon in this film is the frank assertion that the will to power—even backed up by stun- ningly sophisticated technology—never finally solves our difficulties, that it, in point of fact, makes things worse. See the Tower of Babel narrative for the details. And this admission teases the mind to consider the possibility that the human predicament can be ad- dressed finally only through the inva- sion of grace. Once that door is opened, the Gospel can be pro- claimed.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the Rector/President of Mundelein Seminary. He is the creator of the award winning documentary series, *Catholicmom* and *Catholicism: The New Evangelization.*
Michigan Celebra el Matrimonio
Por Socorro Truchan
Uniendo un hombre y una mujer para toda la vida dentro del matrimonio es vital para una sociedad sana. A través de estos matrimonios, los niños se unen con su madre y padre, que cada uno contribuye de forma única a la crianza de la siguiente generación. Mientras que el matrimonio es la piedra angular de la familia, las familias, a su vez, proporcionan la base necesaria para toda la sociedad. Una sociedad fuerte requiere familias fuertes. Por lo tanto, las políticas que fortalecen y promueven el matrimonio tradicional y la familia deben ser alentadas.

La Conferencia Católica de Michigan, en colaboración con las siete diócesis en Michigan está celebrando una observancia de un “Año de Matrimonio” en todo el estado con los recursos disponibles en el sitio web de MCC: www.michigancelebratemarriage.com.

El “Año de Matrimonio” incluye recursos para ayudar a educar y reforzar la verdadera naturaleza del matrimonio de una manera positiva sobre el bien y la importancia del matrimonio para parejas, para los niños, para las comunidades y para la sociedad en general.

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Programa de Conferencia en Español: Programa de Recuperación de Traumas
Hemos trabajado con dos grupos en español; los participantes han expresado que se beneficiaron bastante de este programa y estamos listos para comenzar con un nuevo programa en español.

El Programa de Recuperación de Traumas está basado en el modelo de Trauma, un modelo psico-educacional que ayuda a las personas a aprender cómo integrar sus sentimientos, pensamientos y comportamientos. Las intervenciones que se realizan en el programa son perceptivas, experimentales, en espíritu, inmediatos, etc. y van guiados por el modelo de la mujer que ha experimentado el trauma, se enfoca en ayudar a las víctimas a resolver los problemas y a mejorar la calidad de vida.

Por medio de un gran número de experiencias volúntarias y voluntarias, sacerdotes y religiosas que alegremente y con gran entusiasmo colaboran en este ministerio.

Además del apoyo que ofrecen los sacerdotes en sus respectivas parroquias a los campesinos, también ofrecen hospitalidad a misioneros que vienen desde distintos estados de Estados Unidos y de otros países. Les damos la Bienvenida y deseamos que esta temporada también esté plena de bienestar espiritual para todos los campesinos y sus familias.

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo se suma a las parroquias en el quehan de los campos por medio del Ministerio Campesino Migrante de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo. Por medio de la oferta de los campos en español, se busca fortalecer el encuentro comunitario a nivel local, con la comunidad hispana y con otros grupos lingüísticos.

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**Here & There**

**CENTRAL DEANERY**

Kalamazoo:
- **July 17:** Theology on Tap, TGIF Fridays. Gathering on Friday evenings in July for young adults to discuss various topics in a comfortable, laid-back setting. 6:30 p.m. Also meets July 24 and 31. Contact: Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139, tmnamara@diokzoo.org.


- **July 21:** Diocesan Anniversary Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, St. Augustine Cathedral, Niles. August 1: RCIA Workshop for parish leaders, Transformations Spiritually Centered. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Workshop to review basic RCIA principles and how to apply them to your parish ministry. Cost is $10. Contact: Jane Bodway, 269-903-0147, jowady@diokzoo.org.

- **Sept. 12:** Diocesan Quinceañera Retreat, St. Joseph Parish. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Retreat for parents and daughters to prepare spiritually before Quinceañera celebration. Contact: Fanny Tabares, 269-903-0209, ftabares@diokzoo.org.

- **Sept. 19-20:** Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, St. Joseph Parish. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Retreat for engaged couples or married couples who wish to have a day of reflection. Contact: Fanny Tabares, 269-903-0209, ftabares@diokzoo.org.

- **Sept. 21-27:** Catholic Cursillo weekend, St. Joseph Parish. Morning and evening sessions are available. Please contact Phyllis Florian for registration and questions at 269-381-8917, ext. 223.

**LAKE SHORES DEANERY**

Bangor:
- **August 30:** Annual Ham & Yam Dinner, Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor. 12:30 – 3 p.m. Adults: $10, Children 6-12: $5, Children 5 and under: Free. Contact: Sacred Heart Parish, 269-427-7514.

- **July 20-24:** Everett Vacation Bible School, St. Peter Parish. 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Cost is donation only. Contact: Alasha Giles, 269-857-7915 x105, aghile@st-peters.org.

Fennville:
- **August 8:** Spanish Pre-Marriage Encounter, San Felipe de Jesus Mission, 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, ftabares@diokzoo.org.

- **August 16:** Diocesan Fiesta with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Immaculate Conception Parish, Niles. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Invitation only. Cost is $10. Contact: Jane Bodway, 269-307-3477, jowady@diokzoo.org.

**New Buffalo**

- **August 23:** Discovering the Power of God’s Word, St. Mary of the Lake Parish. Dr. Mary Healy presents on discovering the power of God’s word. Light reception to follow. 3 p.m. Contact: Parish office, 269-496-2637.

- **St. Joseph**
  - **July 23-26:** Catholic Cursillo weekend, St. Joseph Parish. Morning and evening sessions are available. Please contact Phyllis Florian for registration and questions at 269-381-8917, ext. 223.

**NORTHERN DEANERY**

Dorr:
- **July 8:** PK-4 Hanging on His Word Wednesday, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr. 10:30 a.m. After Mass, there will be activities for PK-4 based on The Kingdom of God is at hand. Matthew 10:7. Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 269-793-8735, scoconnor2149@sbcglobal.net.

- **July 15:** Middle School (5-8th grade) Hanging on His Word Wednesday, St. Stanislaus Parish, 10:30 a.m. After Mass, there will be activities for 5-8th graders based on Moses and the Burning Bush, Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12. Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 269-793-8735, scoconnor2149@sbcglobal.net.

- **July 29:** High School (9-12th grade) Hanging on His Word Wednesday, St. Stanislaus Parish, 10:30 a.m. After Mass, there will be activities for 9-12th graders based on A Faith Beyond Price, Matthew 13:44-46. Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 269-793-8735, scoconnor2149@sbcglobal.net.

- **August 13-14:** Altar Server Day Camp, St. Stanislaus Parish. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Day camp, and two new altar servers to learn more about the Mass and practice. Michigan Adventure trip on Friday. Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 269-793-8735, scoconnor2149@sbcglobal.net.

Ogema:
- **August 8:** Family Day Mass and Picnic with Bishop Bradley, St. Margaret Parish, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Picnic with Bishop Bradley for persons with disabilities and their families. No food, cost provided. RSVP by August 1. Contact: Lisa Irwin, 269-903-0209, lirwin2149@sbcglobal.org.

**SOUTHWEST DEANERY**

Bronson:
- **July 25:** Diocesan Quinceañera Retreat, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Retreat for parents and daughters to prepare spiritually before Quinceañera celebration. Contact: Fanny Tabares, 269-903-0209, ftabares@diokzoo.org.

**SOUTHWEST DEANERY**

Cassopolis:
- **July 26:** 100th Anniversary Mass and 55th Anniversary of Rev. Donald Potth’s Priesthood celebration, St. Ann Parish. Mass at 10 a.m. followed by a celebration. RSVP: 269-445-3000, stannucc@fronter.com.

- **EVENTS OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE**

- **August 7-9:** Led by Molly Keating, Michele Gossman, Betsy Meagher, CSJ

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

10 Saturday mornings over 9 months beginning Sept 12 w/Bernadette Dea, CSJ, Betsy Meagher, CSJ, Michele Gossman

- Journey with others in a safe environment
- Commit an hour a day to savor the exercises
- Develop a greater awareness of the inter-connectedness of all things
- Be more inclined to trust God’s love
- Be free to act with more love and service
- Develop a deepening relationship with Jesus

More info & register at TransformationsCenter.org and call 269-413-7404

## Fall groups forming for Trauma Recovery Program

The Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Trauma Recovery Program will hold fall groups beginning in October. If there are events from your child- hood that are interfering with your ability to live healthfully and happily as an adult, help and healing are possible. These programs are available at no cost to participants. Survivors meet for ten sessions in small groups facilitated by mental health professionals, including priests. Participants do not rehash their hurtful past, but instead focus on learning skills to live more satisfying and effective lives.

Reservations are currently being taken for English-speaking groups that begin Oct. 12th and run for 10 weeks until Dec. 7. Morning and evening sessions are available. Please contact Phyllis Florian for registration and questions at 269-381-8917, ext. 223.

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**Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct**

A report of sexual misconduct may be submitted 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.
Eagle scouts from around the diocese

The following young men have earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy McNally, Troop 224 St. Augustine Cathedral School
For his Eagle project, he led a team in designing, constructing and installing a new cabinet at Hackett Catholic Prep for band trophies.

Aiden Wales, Troop 211 St. Monica Parish (pictured right)
For his Eagle project, he renovated the Mary garden adjacent to the rectory of St. Monica Parish, including building a retaining wall and planting plants and flowers.

Nathan Harpenau, Troop 224 St. Augustine Cathedral School
For his Eagle project, he led and directed a refurbishing project of the football equipment storage room at Hackett Catholic Prep, including repainting the room and constructing and installing new shelving.

Andrew Duris, Troop 624 St. Joseph Parish
For his Eagle project, he planned, designed and organized the construction of three raised garden boxes for the St. Joseph-Lincoln Senior Center.

Daniel Stickney, Troop 211 St. Monica Parish (pictured left)
For his Eagle project, he designed, constructed and installed custom wooden shelves for The Ark youth shelter in Kalamazoo.

For more information on Eagle Scouts, contact Tim McNamara at tmcnamara@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0319.

Kathy A. Young, Borgess Health, Commitment Ceremony
Kathy A. Young, Borgess Health, was officially welcomed as the 22nd President and CEO of Borgess Health at a Commitment Ceremony on June 4th in the Holy Family Chapel at Nazareth. The ceremony was attended by Bishop Bradley, among many others, including the Congregation of St. Joseph Sisters.

Rev. Bill Jacobs, pastor, Sts. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, presents the parish’s “vocations cross” to Josephine Brenner, a resident at Caretel, St. Joseph, Mich., on her 102nd birthday. While in possession of the cross Josephine prayed the rosary twice daily for two weeks for an increase in vocations to the religious life.

Your Health Today

When it Comes to Your Skin, Don’t Let Too Much Sun Shine In

Darkened skin color from the sun or a tanning booth not only accelerates the effects of aging, but also increases one’s risk of skin cancer, the most common form of all cancers in the U.S.

The risk for skin cancer is highest for individuals who have fair or freckled skin, light eyes and blonde or red hair. Other risk factors include having a family or personal history of skin cancer, working in an outdoor job, living in a sunny climate, and having a history of severe sunburns and an abundance of large, abnormally shaped moles.

Know Your ABCDs:
The most recognizable sign of skin cancer is a change on the skin, usually a new mole or skin lesion, or change in an existing mole. That’s why knowing your ABCDs is important:

- **Asymmetry**—the shape of one half doesn’t match the other
- **Borders**—edges are ragged or blurred
- **Color**—uneven shades of brown, black, tan, red, white or blue
- **Diameter**—a big change in size (greater than 6mm)

Safeguarding Your Skin
Here are some simple rules to safeguard your skin:

- Remember, a little sun exposure can be good for you, as it’s an ideal way to soak up vitamin D. How long you should stay in the sun depends on a number of factors, such as your skin type, the time of year and the time of day. Short daily periods of sun exposure without sunscreen during the summer months (April to October) are enough for many people to make enough vitamin D. Research suggests the most effective time of day for vitamin D production is between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you are fair-skinned, a short period of time in the sun means about 10 to 15 minutes (less than the time it takes you to start turning red or burn).
- Keep babies younger than 6 months of age out of direct sunlight (as sunscreen is not recommended for children this age).
- Apply sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or greater 30 minutes before sun exposure and reapply every few hours thereafter.
- Whenever possible, dress yourself and your children in cool, comfortable clothing that covers the body.
- Wear hats with an all-around brim.
- Limit your sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when ultraviolet (UV) rays are strongest.
- Wear sunglasses with at least 99 percent UV protection. Look for child-sized sunglasses with UV protection for your child.
- Skip tanning beds.

Amesha Rathore is a certified physician assistant (PA-C) with Borgess Family Medicine & Pediatrics. She may be reached by calling (269) 552.0100.