World Meeting of Families celebrated far and wide as excitement builds for Pope Francis’ first U.S. visit

By Sara DeMott

It has been three years since Pope Benedict announced the eighth World Meeting of Families would be held in Philadelphia. The international meeting was first conceived by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1992 to look at strengthening the sacred bonds of the family unit across the globe. The first WMOF took place in Rome in 1994, the International year of the family, and has visited cities around the world from Manila to Milan.

This year the meeting sits as the centerpiece of the Pope Francis’ first official visit to the United States September 22-27.

While Pope Francis will visit President Obama, address Congress, celebrate the Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra, and several more stops in New York City and Washington, D.C., the World Meeting of Families will be focused in the host city of Philadelphia.

The papal visit portion of the World Meeting will begin with Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. He will visit the Independence Mall and the Festival of Families, meet with bishops, and visit a correctional facility. Pope Francis’ closing Mass, held outside at Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is expected to draw more than 1.5 million participants. Only his address at the Independence Mall, the Festival of Families and closing Mass will be open to the public.

But the World Meeting of Families isn’t solely focused on the papal visit which begins September 22 prior to the Pope’s arrival on the 26th. The Conference will host 100 speakers, discussions, workshops including featured speakers such as Bishop-elect Robert Barron, Dr. Scott Hahn and Prof. Helen Alvaré.

Even if you’re not heading East there are several ways to participate in the World Meeting of Families. The USCCB has launched a new smartphone app, The Catholic Church, which will include visuals, audio and text of the papal visit. Events will be available via live-stream on the official World Meeting website (www.worldmeeting2015.org), USCCB, and several other websites. EWTN will also be airing several events.

Bishop Bradley will be one of the bishops welcoming Pope Francis to Andrews Air Force base on September 22 and attending activities in Washington, D.C. Locally, Bishop Paul J. Bradley will celebrate Mass in connection to the World Meeting of Families on Saturday, Sept. 26 at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish at 9 a.m. In an effort to unite the families of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, in solidarity with the World Meeting of the Families, a walking rosary and song and praise will be held after Mass. Families are encouraged to bring instruments and join in the song. There will also be a live television-streamed check-in with the Pope. The exact content of that stream will be determined by the coverage available and will be projected onto screens for all to view.

For more information on local programming contact Socorro Truchan, Call: 269-903-0199; Email: struchan@diokzoo.org.

THE GOOD NEWS

New capstone project and diocesan scholarship emphasize Catholic education

By Sarah DeMott

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, students at the three diocesan high schools will have another tool to prepare them for continuing their education and their faith lives.

In addition to this new capstone project, the diocese is introducing the Diocese of Kalamazoo St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship. Top capstone projects will be eligible for one of 10 diocesan scholarships ranging in value from $500 to $5,000.

Students choose the topic of their capstone project during their junior year of high school and are assigned a mentor prior to summer break. During their senior year, they research, organize and create their final presentation. Senior capstone projects are completed by March.

“The Capstone Project is an exciting addition to the curriculum for all of our seniors,” says John Berlin, Executive Director of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. “As an educator, I am certainly motivated when I see the fruits of our labor through student outcomes. This project will provide us with a holistic view of how well we have prepared our students and, at the same time, provide them with an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills they will need to be successful at the next level.”

The scholarship competition will be held in April. Phase one of the scholarship competition is held at the school level. Student presentations are evaluated and scored by a panel. Top scored presentations advance to phase two which is the diocesan competition. In phase two, students with top scores from the three Catholic high schools present to a diocesan-wide panel. Scholarships are awarded to the 10 top-scoring students. Senior projects will be evaluated on theological content, writing, media, research, source citation, oral presentation skills and more. Scholarships are awarded in May at a reception with Bishop Bradley. First prize will receive $5,000; second prize will receive $3,000 and third will receive $2,000. Seven runners-up will receive $500 each.

“The Thomas Aquinas Scholarship is a way for the diocese to continue to attract and reward students pursuing an education that contains both strong academic and religious components,” says Margaret Erich, Superintendent. “Our students are the future of the Church. While we have always held our students to a standard of excellence, the Capstone Project provides them an opportunity to practice skills that will be invaluable as they continue on to the next stage in their education, and the diocesan scholarship rewards those who excel. We are excited to see the depths of faith and intellect our students produce.”
FROM THE EDITOR

Arrggghhh!

The man emanating from my son pierced the air over the ball diamond and suddenly my celebratory shouts at his spectacular hit over second base were cut short.

And I froze. For just a moment. Do I run out there and risk embarrassing my adult son? Do I let him handle it? But as he grabbed his knee and fell to the ground, my internal dialog ceased and I ran out of the dug out towards him.

If you’ve ever been with a loved one when they’ve gotten injured and you hear that first cry, you know what I’m talking about. It takes a hold of you and your instincts of “flight or fight” kick-in. When our children our little there’s no hesitation as we race to “fix” whatever problem they may need.

But navigating this new season of parenthood of having adult children brings with it the recognition that I’m no longer calling the shots, it’s more like I’m more coaching from the sidelines.

Parenthood requires us to adjust and bravely traverse those roads through infancy, adolescence and then adulthood. It requires new ways of thinking and sometimes even new vocabulary to best equip us.

In some ways it’s not what we’re called to do with our faith. To re-examine our toolbox, re-calibrate, to not just keep it on autopilot and expect different results.

This month as perhaps we should ask ourselves what we’re doing to deepen our faith life. Are we really called to spend less time than children on our faith?

In his first major writing, Evangeli Guadu, Pope Francis writes about God’s invitation: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ... I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”... whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.”

Unfailing. Each day. Not always an easy task but the benefits are clear as day.

Bishop-Elect Robert Barron, popular “Catholicism” host appointed auxiliary bishop of Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Bishop-Elect Robert Barron, 55, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and rector of Mundelein Seminary, was appointed by Pope Francis as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The announcement was made on July 21, 2015.

Bishop-Elect Barron has served as rector of Mundelein Seminary and president of University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., since 2012. He was born November 19, 1959, in Chicago. He holds a master’s in philosophy from The Catholic University of America in Washington (1982), a licentiate in sacred theology from University of St. Mary of the Lake (1986) and a doctorate in sacred theology from Institut Catholique de Paris (1992). He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in May 1986. He was appointed the Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at Mundelein Seminary in 2008. While teaching in the United States, he served in parishes throughout the Chicago Archdiocese during weekends.

Bishop-Elect Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, host of the award-winning “Catholicism” film series, and since 2012. His website, WordOnFire.org, reaches millions of people each year. His regular YouTube videos have been viewed over 13 million times. Next to Pope Francis, he is the most-followed Catholic leader on social media.

IN MEMORIAM

Mgr. William Fitzgerald, 84, passed into eternal life on July 14, 2015. Prayer service was held at St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek and Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo. Early in his priesthood he served in pastoral ministry at various parishes in Lansing as well as Msgr. Rafferty High School and the diocesan administration offices. He began serving as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kalamazoo in 1969 and ministered there until 1980. He then served as pastor of St. Philip Parish in Battle Creek from 1980 until his retirement in 2001. In addition to his pastoral duties, Mgr. Fitzgerald served as Vicar for Christian Education from 1971 to 1979, and on the Presbyteral Council from 1995 to 1998. After his retirement in 2001, he continued his priestly ministry as the Director of South Street House in Kalamazoo, the Vicar for Clergy, and as a spiritual director for many individuals, and at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, and the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. See page 7 for additional memories and reflections.

Rev. Gaylord F. Shimnoski, 81, passed into eternal life on Tuesday, July 7. Fr. Shimnoski was most recently in residence in Cadillac and his last pastoral assignment within the diocese was as Parochial Vicar for St. Cyril/Methodius, Gun Lake. He also had previous assignments at St. Ambrose, Delton, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo and St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo. He was born on February 10, 1934 in Manistee, Mich., the son of Harry & Julia (Olejniczak) Shimnoski. He graduated from Ferris State College in 1956, with a degree in Pharmacy. Graduated from St. Mary Seminary of the North in 1959, in Chicago. He holds a master’s in philosophy from The Catholic University of America (1962), a licentiate in sacred theology from University of St. Mary of the Lake (1964) and a doctorate in sacred theology from Institut Catholique de Paris (1967). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1960 and ministered there until 1980. He then served as pastor of St. Philip Parish in Battle Creek from 1980 until his retirement in 2001. In addition to his pastoral duties, Mgr. Fitzgerald served as Vicar for Christian Education from 1971 to 1979, and on the Presbyteral Council from 1995 to 1998. After his retirement in 2001, he continued his priestly ministry as the Director of South Street House in Kalamazoo, the Vicar for Clergy, and as a spiritual director for many individuals, and at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, and the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. See page 7 for additional memories and reflections.

Rev. Matthew Manalel has been appointed a senior priest for St. Augustine Cathedral. Fr. Manalel was previously pastor, Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers.

Rev. David Grondz has made the decision to immediately withdraw from active priestly ministry and to begin the process to petition for laicization. Very Rev. Larry Farrell, Dean of the Central Deanery, pastor, St. Monica Parish, has been appointed as Canonical Pastor Pro Tem. Deacon Pat Hall will continue to serve St. Mary Parish as the Parochial Administrator and Permanent Deacon.

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley has announced the following priest and deacon assignments for the Diocese of Kalamazoo which became effective XX, 2015, unless otherwise noted.


department assignments, etc. issued under the caption “Official Communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo.” All notices and regulations, appointments, announcements, etc. issued under the caption “Official Communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo.”

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

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The vocation of the family

Families will always have their trials, but may you never add to them! Instead, be living examples of love, forgiveness and care. So protect your families! Be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death. What a gift this would be to society, if every Christian family lived fully its noble vocation! — Pope Francis, January 2015

While the change in the weather lets us know that the summer season is quickly coming to a close, we can still feel the excitement of new things to come. As we put away our summer-time wardrobe, we can look forward to all that Fall weather brings to beautiful southwest Michigan. The return of school brings the excitement of football games and all the other extra-curricular activities that come with the routine of a new school year. And on the national front, we are all very much looking forward with great excitement to the first, historic visit of Pope Francis to the United States from September 22-28, when he will visit Washington, New York and Philadelphia. The primary purpose of our Holy Father’s visit is occasioned by the World Meeting of Families to take place in Philadelphia at the same time. It has become very clear that the family holds a place of very special concern for Pope Francis. He understands what a sacred and essential institution the family is for the well-being of world-wide society, and for the Church. The Holy Father is very concerned about the pressures and outright attacks the family is experiencing in our day and time. I would like to reflect with you on the importance of the family for all of us.

Over the past several weeks, I had many opportunities to participate in a number of family events here in our Diocese. Not long ago, I was privileged to celebrate a Family Mass and Picnic for about 20 families with persons with disabilities from around the Diocese, sponsored by the Ministry to Persons with Disabilities Diocesan Commission. I also was grateful for the experience of celebrating the annual Diocesan Hispanic Mass and Fiesta with more than 500 of our Hispanic sisters and brothers. These and so many other joyful gatherings all reflect the importance of our individual families, and reflect Pope Francis’ message of calling the family society’s greatest treasure to be protected.

During Pope Francis’ recent pastoral visit to Bolivia in his native South America, he preached a beautiful homily on the importance of the family using Jesus’ first miracle of changing water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana as an analogy. In his reflection, Pope Francis explained that the family is the most basic and original institution for each of us that serves all our needs. The family is the “nearest hospital” where our hurts and pains are treated with love and compassion; the “first school for the young” where we are taught the basic virtues and practices of living in society; the “first home for the elderly” where older members are cared for with love and respect for as long as the family can possibly do so; and that the family is the “first, domestic church” where we first get to know God’s unconditional love and learn about God’s ways at the hands of our parents. But our Holy Father also talked about how the family is in need of a similar miracle as the young newlywed couple in Cana. He prayed that as Mary went to Jesus to ask Him to help this young couple, may Mary, the Mother of the Church, ask Jesus to continue to “pour out the best wine” for the families living in the world today.

Let me point to a few very particular threats and attacks to family life that we have seen in the news headlines in recent weeks. In the quote at the beginning of this article, Pope Francis urged the family to “be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death.” Earlier in August, the whole country was shocked by a video that surfaced of a representative of Planned Parenthood, while sipping wine and eating a lunch salad, in a very matter-of-fact way discussed with her lunch partner the cost-benefit analysis on the sale of fetal body parts. Not only does Planned Parenthood perform more than one-third (330,000) of the nearly 1 million abortions done every year but they also pride themselves on how they can perform the abortions in such a way as to salvage and sell fetal body parts. That should shock and disgust any person with any sensibility, let alone those of us who recognize that an unborn child is a human being and child of God. Has our “culture of death” mentality so desensitized us that we do not in any way object to more than $540 million of our tax money paying for such violence and death on the most innocent of all human beings?

In addition to this violent threat to the unborn are many others including increased incidences of domestic violence, racially motivated confrontations and killings, a frighteningly increasing rate of human trafficking of young women here in the United States being forced to live lives of sexual slavery. All of these examples involve individuals who are members of families, where every member is “sacred” and should be treated with love and respect, not just by the other family members, but by all of society and certainly the Church.

My dear Family of Faith, we must turn to Jesus to be our hope and our joy. Jesus, Who grew up in the midst of the Holy Family of Mary and Joseph, continues to hold all our families close to His Sacred Heart. As we prepare for the upcoming visit to our country of the Vicar of Christ on Earth, may I suggest that these next few weeks provide the perfect opportunity to consciously choose ways by which we can strengthen our families through prayer, education and loving service.

Continued on page 4

THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

La vocación de la familia

Las familias siempre tendrán dificultades, así que no les añadas otras. ¿Más bien, sean ejemplo vivo de amor, de perdón y atención. Así pues, protejan a sus familias! Sean santuarios de respeto a la vida, proclamando la sacralidad de cada vida humana desde su concepción hasta la muerte natural. ¿Qué don para la sociedad si cada familia cristiana viviera plenamente su noble vocación?

Mientras que el cambio en el clima nos permite saber que la temporada de verano está llegando rápidamente a su fin, todavía podemos sentir la emoción de las cosas nuevas por venir. Al guardar nuestra ropa de verano, podemos esperar todo lo que el tiempo de otoño le trae al hermoso suroeste de Michigan. El regreso de la escuela trae la emoción de los juegos de fútbol y todas las otras actividades extracurriculares que vienen con la rutina de un nuevo año escolar. Y en el frente nacional, todos estamos esperando con gran emoción la primera visita del papa Francisco a los Estados Unidos a partir de septiembre 22-28 cuando visitará Washington, Nueva York y Filadelfia. El propósito principal de la visita del Santo Padre es ocasionada por el Encuentro Mundial de las Familias que al mismo tiempo tendrá lugar en Filadelfia. Ha llegado a ser muy claro que la familia ocupa un lugar de preocupación muy especial para el Papa Francisco. Él entiende que sagrada y esencial institución es la familia para el bienestar de la sociedad en todo el mundo y para la Iglesia universal. El Santo Padre está muy preocupado por las presiones y ataques directos que la familia está experimentando en nuestros días. Me gustaría reflexionar con ustedes sobre la importancia de la familia para todos nosotros.

Durante las últimas semanas, he tenido muchas oportunidades de participar en una serie de eventos familiares aquí en nuestra Diócesis. Hace poco, tuve el privilegio de celebrar una Misa Familiar y día de campo para cerca de 20 familias con personas con discapacidad de todo la diócesis, patrocinado por la Comisión Diocesana del Ministerio a Personas con Discapacidad. También me sentí agradecido por la experiencia de la celebración de la Misa Diocesana hispana anual y Fiesta con más de 500 de nuestros hermanos y hermanas hispanos. Estas y tantas otras reuniones gozosas, todas reflejan la importancia de nuestras familias individuales, y reflejan el mensaje del Papa Francisco llamando a proteger a la familia, el mayor tesoro de la sociedad.

Durante la reciente visita pastoral a Bolivia del Papa Francisco en su nativa América del Sur, él predicó una hermosa homilía sobre la importancia de la familia usando el primer milagro de Jesús de convertir el agua en vino en las bodas de Caná como una analogía. En su reflexión, el Papa Francisco explicó que la familia es la institución más básica y original para cada uno de nosotros que sirve todas nuestras necesidades. La familia es el “hospital más cercano”, donde nuestras heridas y dolores son tratados con amor y compasión; la “primera escuela para los jóvenes”, donde se nos enseñan las virtudes y prácticas básicas de la vida en sociedad; la “primera residencia de mayores”, donde los miembros de más edad son cuidados con amor y respeto; la “primera escuela de amor”, donde los miembros de familia son cuidados con amor y respeto; y que la familia es la “primera, iglesia doméstica”, donde por primera vez conocemos el amor incondicional de Dios y aprendemos acerca de los caminos de Dios de la mano de nuestros padres. Pero el Santo Padre también habló sobre cómo la familia está en necesidad de un milagro similar al de la joven pareja de recién casados en Caná. Él oró por que la familia que surgió de un representante de Planificación Familiar, mientras bebía vino y comía de una ensalada, de una manera muy como–si–tal–cosa discutió con sus compañeros de almuerzo una ensalada, de una manera muy como–si–tal–cosa discutió con sus compañeros de almuerzo el análisis de costo-beneficio en la venta de partes del cuerpo del feto. No sólo Planificación Familiar realiza más de un tercio (330,000) de los cerca de 1 millón de abortos realizados cada año, pero que también se enorgullecen de cómo pueden realizar los abortos de manera tal para poder rescatar y vender las partes del cuerpo del feto. Eso debería asombrar y disgustar a cualquier persona con cualquier sensibilidad, y ni hablar de aquellos de nosotros que reconocemos que un niño no nacido es un ser humano en el seno de Dios. Nuestra mentalidad de “cultura de la muerte”, ¿se ha desensibilizado de tal forma que no objetamos de ninguna manera a los más de $540 millones del dinero de nuestros impuestos pagando este tipo de violencia y muerte en los más inocentes de todos los seres humanos?

Además de esta amenaza violenta al no nacido son muchos otros, incluyendo el aumento de incidencia de violencia doméstica, enfrentamientos y asesinatos racialmente motivados, una tasa alarmantemente creciente de trata de personas de mujeres jóvenes aquí en los Estados Unidos viéndose obligadas a vivir una vida de esclavitud sexual. Todos estos ejemplos implican individuos que son miembros de familias, donde cada miembro es “sagrado” y deben ser tratados con amor y respeto, no sólo por los otros miembros de la familia, sino por toda la sociedad y, ciertamente, la Iglesia.

Mi querida Familia de Fe, debemos recurrir a Jesús para que sea nuestra esperanza y nuestra...
Collection to be held September 20/21st for Campaign for Human Development

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

During his visit to Brazil, Pope Francis said, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need” (World Youth Day, Address, July 25, 2013). With these words, Pope Francis continues to bring our attention back to the poor and our responsibility toward them. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) responds directly to this call by addressing the root causes of poverty in the United States. Founded by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, CCHD has served the poor and marginalized for more than forty years. Through anti-poverty grants and education programs, CCHD seeks to end the cycle of poverty by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves.

The national collection, held in the Diocese of Kalamazoo on the weekend of Sept. 20th, is the primary source of funding for these grants and programs. Twenty-five percent of the collection’s proceeds remain in our diocese to fight poverty in the community and defend the dignity of our neighbors. By giving a hand up, rather than a handout, CCHD helps our diocese to fight poverty in the community and defend the dignity of our neighbors. By giving a hand up, rather than a handout, CCHD helps people living in poverty join together to identify problems, make decisions, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. To learn more about CCHD visit http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaigns, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods.

For more information about poverty and the Church’s responsibilities visit: www.povertyusa.org.

Battle Creek parishes join forces to offer family-filled weekend at All Saints Superfest

For close to 30 years the three area Battle Creek parishes have combined forces to create a weekend carnival that not only offers live entertainment and something for everyone in the family but has been a successful fundraiser as well. Held on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, the three-day event combines the volunteer hours from the two other host parishes, St. Philip Parish and St. Jerome. Over the past 29 years more than $1.3 million has been generated for parish operating funds.

All Saints Superfest is scheduled for September 25, 26 & 27 and is open to everyone in the community. Featured bands this year include The Spazmatics and The Fabulous Jim Cummings Band. Circle-style tents house most of the activities which include a variety of kids games, raffles, silent auction, talent shows, casino games and food. Skerbeck Brothers Carnival rides are also set-up onsite.

Admission is $1 per person and no more than $5 per family with tickets at the gate on the St. Joseph Church grounds. Ticket information and more info on the performers for the live entertainment part can be obtained at www.allsaintssuperfest.org or you email info@allsaintssuperfest.org.

In order to defray the cost of the event the parish volunteer organizers offer local businesses and individuals four options for prospective sponsors. Tent Sponsor ($1,000); Major/Event Sponsor ($500); Super Sponsor ($250) and All Saints Sponsor ($150). Please contact Ed Bauman (269-274-5173) if you can help support these efforts.

The Bishop’s Perspective

Continued from page 3

Prayer: A family’s schedule can sometimes resemble a complex matrix of practices, lessons and club activities. Maybe actually scheduling in family prayer time is a good approach to ensure it happens. Hopefully you are going to Sunday Mass as a family as part of our weekly obligation, and praying at meals but look for additional ways to instill prayerfulness into your family activities. Another suggestion is to celebrate each person’s baptism anniversary or saint’s namesake feast day along with birthdays and other important milestones. Finally it would be wonderful to pray the rosary together, perhaps before Sunday dinner. Remember “the family that prays together, stays together.”

Education: Children aren’t the only ones we have the opportunity to enjoy “back to school” time. Set an example for your family by becoming a life-long student and participating in some faith formation programs. Whether at the parish or diocesan level or through an audio or video series making learning about the faith rewarding, you will reap so many benefits and which will bring you closer in your relationship with God.

Service: It is always inspiring to witness the spirit of service in our young people from our Catholic school students to our religious education and youth groups. Why not choose a service activity that involves the family. Visit the elderly; involve your older kids as classroom helpers if you are a catechist; go through old items and donate them together. Whatever you choose, putting your faith in action as a family is the perfect way to be, as Pope Francis says to be, “the leaven of society.”

My dear Family of Faith, each of us, as children of God, is a blessed member of God’s Holy Family. Let us recognize the beauty in our own families as a reflection of God’s love and visible sign to all who encounter us so that our loving examples will attract others toward the faith as our Christian families live up to our “noble vocation.”

May God Bless You, now and always.

5,000 Confirmations with Bishop Bradley

Derrick Manning, right, St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, was Bishop Bradley’s 5,000 confirmation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Bishop Bradley surprised Derrick with a special gift. During the course of a year Bishop Bradley confirms close to 1,000 young men and women and adults.

Honoring 50 years of ministry

Visitors, family and fellow sisters came to celebrate and honor the close to 50 years of ministry of Sr. Mary Pung, CSJ. Sr. Mary was the co-director of the Catholic Community Center, Benton Harbor, Mich. Pictured left, Sr. Mary Pung was honored with a custom papal blessing from the Vatican courtesy of Bishop Bradley and the diocesan staff. She also received a special tribute from the State of Michigan courtesy of Michigan State Sen. John Proos.
Divorced and remarried are not excommunicated, pope says at audience

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
CNS/Reuters
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics who have divorced and are civilly remarried “are not, in fact, excommunicated — they are not excommunicated — and they absolutely must not be treated as if they were,” Pope Francis said.

Resuming his Wednesday general audiences Aug. 5 after a month’s break, Pope Francis returned to the series of talks he has been giving on the family. It was the 100th general audience of his papacy.

At his last audience, June 24, he talked about the damage caused especially to children when couples fight and hurt each other.

“Today,” he said, “I want to draw our attention to another reality, how to care for those who, after the irreversible failure of the matrimonial bond, have undertaken a new union.”

Without an annulment of the sacramental marriage, “such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrifice,” which is meant to be an indissoluble bond, the pope said.

According to church teaching, in most cases such couples are not permitted to receive Communion. But bishops at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family last October and preparing for the general synod Oct. 4-25 have been studying and debating possibilities for allowing some couples in some situations to return to the sacraments.

The church, Pope Francis said at the audience, must have “the heart of a mother, a heart that, animated by the Holy Spirit, always seeks the good and the salvation of persons.”

The children of such couples suffer most and deserve particular care, the pope said.

“How can we tell these parents to do everything possible to raise their children in the Christian life, giving them the example of a convinced and lived faith, if we keep them at a distance from the life of the community as if they were excommunicated?” the pope asked.

Particularly over the past few decades, he said, “the church has not been insensitive or lazy” when it comes to providing pastoral care to the divorced and civilly remarried.

In his apostolic exhortation, “Familiaris Consortio,” St. John Paul II saw an “obligation, ‘for love of the truth,’ to exercise a ‘careful discernment of situations,’” noting for example “the difference between one who has endured a separation and one who provoked it.”

Pope Francis said.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI also studied the question, he said, “calling for an attentive discernment and wise pastoral accompany, knowing that no ‘simple recipes’ exist.”

As the studies and discernment continue, Pope Francis said, it is essential that Catholic pastors “openly and coherently demonstrate the willingness of the community to welcome and encourage” divorced and remarried couples and their families to participate in church life.

Prayer, listening to the word of God, attending Mass, educating their children in the faith, serving the poor and working for justice and peace should be part of their lives, he said.

Quoting his apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis told those gathered for the audience, “The church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the church; everyone can be part of the community.”

Additional information and online registration can be found at intothewildweekend.com.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Deacon Kurt Lucas at Email: klucas@diokzoo.org or Call: 269-903-0183.
Hearing the Call

Close to fifty people gathered together on August 6, 2015, at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Vicksburg to witness Seminarian Matthew Montgomery receive the Rite of Candidacy. This rite signifies that Matthew has been deemed a suitable candidate for Holy Orders. He recently completed his degree in philosophy at St. Joseph College Seminary in Chicago and will complete his Theology studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Please remember Matthew in your prayers, along with all of our seminarians during the upcoming academic year.

The Office of Vocations, along with Bishop Bradley, is pleased to announce the acceptance of two new seminarians for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Jeffrey Engle and Biask “Paul” Sang. Jeffrey Engle, 19, a parishioner of St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo, will be attending Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit this fall. Jeffrey will transfer enough college credit to enter seminary as a second-year college student. Biask “Paul” Sang, 19, is a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in Battle Creek. He will also attend Sacred Heart Major Seminary and will enter as a first-year college student. Please keep them in prayer during the upcoming year.

Commission seeks to understand ministry needs of persons with disabilities

The diocesan Commission on Ministry to Persons with Disabilities is holding the third in a series of informal gatherings to listen and understand better the ministry needs of this group.

“We decided to hold these gatherings so we could hear first-hand from individuals and families about their experience of Church as a disabled person or family member of a disabled person,” said Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sacrality of the Human Person and head of the commission. “Listening to peoples’ joys as well as challenges will help us determine what resources we may need to assist the parish and also help inform our diocesan programming.

The next gathering for Persons with Disabilities, their families and caregivers, will be held Saturday, Sept. 19th from 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center Community Room, 63 N. 24th St., Battle Creek, Mich. Participants will be invited to share the experiences, challenges and joys of their faith life in an informal setting. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP appreciated, especially if accommodations are needed. Contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.

Notre Dame grad students start work in local parishes

By Sarah DeMott

Three parishes are gearing up to welcome the three new Notre Dame ECHO apprentices who have arrived to the diocese to begin their two-year graduate service program. Echo is the University of Notre Dame’s two-year service, learning, and lay ministry formation program for young men and women interested in exploring parish catechetical ministry within the context of a comprehensive ministry formation program.

Sara Pekar graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Dayton. She will be working with Barb Kincaid at St. Joseph Parish in Battle Creek. She will primarily be working with the youth ministry and the Legion of Mary, as well as religious education and RCIA programs.

For these young women, as well as the other students in the program, the hands-on experience in a parish setting is huge opportunity to learn and grow in faith.

“We decided to hold these gatherings so we could hear first-hand from individuals and families about their experience of Church as a disabled person or family member of a disabled person,” said Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sacrality of the Human Person and head of the mission. “Listening to peoples’ joys as well as challenges will help us determine what resources we may need to assist the parish and also help inform our diocesan programming.”

The three new apprentices from the ECHO program at the University of Notre Dame, with their mentors from St. Mary Paw Paw, Left to Right: Alana Kenney, Laurie Schulte, Sara Pekar, Barb Kincaid, Don, Kurt Lucas, Megan Gilbert, Pat Vanderpool.

Alana Kenney graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in theology and pre-med. She will be working with Laurie Schulte at St. Monica Parish, helping with confirmation classes and RCIA, as well as some potential youth group work during her second year.

“I was drawn to Echo because it is such an intentional program,” says Kenney. “It incorporates every aspect of life and really provides the space for young Catholics to become leaders in the Church. A Catholic parish is present for the celebrations, sorrows and monotony of everyday life and I really want to be present to witness that.”

Megan Gilbert is a graduate of Marquette University where she majored in theology and double-minored in women’s and gender studies and psychology. She will be working with Pat VanderPool at St. Ann Parish in Augusta, assisting with religious education, handmaids of the Lord and sacramental preparation.

“I love that Echo helps me grow in my faith academically and personally through classes, community and ministry,” says Gilbert. “I am thrilled to learn from and work with people in the Echo program, at St. Ann’s Parish, and in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, as we share life and grow in holiness together.”

The new apprentices, who are housed at St. Joseph Parish in Battle Creek, are already feeling the love. “We just want to extend a huge thank you to, St. Joseph Parish, the Diocese of Kalamazoo and Catholic Extension for graciously providing us with everything we need. We are so appreciative of the hospitality and kindness.”

The ECHO program, based out of Notre Dame’s Institute for Church Life, is focused on training and forming young adults to be leaders in faith formation. Previous apprentices have served in Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg; St. John-St. Bernard, Benton Harbor; St. Joseph, St. Joseph, St. Mary, Niles; and St. Catherine of Siena, Portage.

Catholic school students serve those in need through Catholic Charities connection

The three new apprentices from the ECHO program at the University of Notre Dame, with their mentors from St. Mary Paw Paw, Left to Right: Alana Kenney, Laurie Schulte, Sara Pekar, Barb Kincaid, Don, Kurt Lucas, Megan Gilbert, Pat Vanderpool.

St. Monica Elementary school students collect hygiene items as part of their service projects.

St. Monica Elementary students sponsor families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Second graders collect socks and hygiene products to donate.

The Welcome Home program provides newly-housed youth with items to create a clean and safe home. Both St. Mary Paw Paw and Immaculate Conception

St. Monica Elementary school students collect hygiene items as part of their service projects.

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Thousands attend services for beloved priest, Msgr. William “Fitz” Fitzgerald

People around the diocese and beyond gathered to honor the life of Msgr. William “Fitz” Fitzgerald who passed away on July 14, 2015, on July 14, 2015, after bravely battling declining health in recent months. Msgr. Fitzgerald (fondly referred to many by his nickname, “Fitz”) served as pastor for several parishes in the Diocese of Lansing and Diocese of Kalamazoo before obtaining senior priest status and retiring from active ministry in 2001. He was a spiritual director for many and was active in ministry for Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., and Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit. Both St. Philip Church and St. Augustine Cathedral were filled to capacity during prayer services and the Mass of Christian Burial for this beloved priest. Following are just a few of the many tributes:

Memories of “Fitz”

“Msgr. Fitz was a man who loved Jesus completely, and who spent his entire life, down to his final conscious moments, bringing others to Jesus to help them experience that same love. Even while on his deathbed, with his ever-present serene smile, there was a steady stream of people coming just to receive his blessing or to go to confession to him one last time. His spiritual directees throughout his 58 years of priestly ministry would probably fill up Comerica Park — home to his beloved Tigers. The breadth and depth of his impact on the Diocese of Kalamazoo and all the communities he served here and elsewhere throughout the Church so joyously will be realized for generations to come.” — Bishop Paul J. Bradley

“I was Father Fitz’s last official Baptism at St. Phil, before he retired. I was the only baptism at Easter and I truly believed he enjoyed dumping three full pitchers of holy water over my head as I enjoyed receiving them from him. His Homilies were always so moving and he had a way of making you feel you were the only one in a fully crowded Mass, and he was talking only to you. He had the most incredible soul and was loved by so many. As much as he will be missed here on earth, I know he’s now watching over all of us.” — Candie Hornberger (see above photo)

“When I was 19 and starting my second year of college seminary, Fr Fitzgerald came to see us at St Gregory’s in Cincinnati. At one point he got talking about praying for his parishioners and said, ‘You know, it’s like those times you find yourself spending all night in prayer for someone!’ We looked at each other deeply moved that a man would spend literally ‘all night’ in prayer! None of us, whether ordained or not, ever forgot his comment and his ministry of praying. We all knew to imitate that.” — Fr. Phil Schmitter, Christ the King Catholic Church, Flint, MI

Your Health Today

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

Declared 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, residing 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
- Border — edges are ragged or blurred
- Color — uneven shades of brown, black, tan, red, white or blue
- Diameter — a big change in size (greater than 6 mm)

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 light-skinned, a short period of time in the sun measures about 10 to 15 minutes (less than the time it takes you to start turning red or burn).

- Keep babies younger than 6 months 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.

- Whatever 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.

Amalda Rathburn is a certified physician’s assistant (PA-C) with Borgess Family Medicine & Pediatrics. She may be reached by calling (269) 372-0100.
that God really is profligate with gifts of grace, and that saints-in-the-
Church. Venerable Father Al's life and accomplishments are a reminder
of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's Disease. Perhaps even fewer
wonderful example of what Aloysius Schwartz understood to be the
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Depression in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Holy Name parish, near
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the Sisters of Mary, or
the Sisters of Mary, or
boystown homes for indigent
And he decided to do something about it.
You can guess the
rest: while working for
the Sisters of Mary, Winnie discerned a
vocation to religious life, joined the congregation that had done so much
for her, and now works in one of the sisters'
missions in Mexico, doing for other waifs
and abandoned children
what the sisters had
done for her giving
them a life.
I had never heard of
the Sisters of Mary, or
the Girsltown and Boystown
in South Korea, the Philippines, and Latin
America where they now serve some twenty-thousand desperately im-
poveryed children, or their parallel men's order, the Brothers of Christ,
which serves both children and people with disabilities, until earlier this
year. Then, happily, my friends Tom and Glory Sullivan, Catholic philan-
thropists who've generously supported this work for years, began to tell
me about the founder of the Sisters and the Brothers, Msgr. Aloysius
Schwartz, whose heroic virtues were formally recognized by Pope Fran-
cis this January 22 – thus making him Venerable Aloysius Schwartz.
"Father Al," as he was universally known, was born during the Great
Depression in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Holy Name parish, near
the Capitol and Union Station. As a boy living in tough economic times,
he decided early on that he wanted to be a missionary priest among the
poor. Ordained in Washington in 1957, he was incardinated into the Dioc-
ese of Pusan, South Korea, where he soon discovered a tremendous
human problem: children living in the direst poverty, often without par-
ents, because of the devastation caused by the Korean War.
And he decided to do something about it.
Fifty years later, Girsltown and Boystown homes for indigent
children that he founded have served some one hundred thousand young-
sters: not only by feeding, clothing, and housing them and providing
medical care, but by offering these youngsters an education that gives
them the financial possibility of gainful employment, and the Christian
and human formation that teaches them to give back to their parents
and siblings. Sister Winnie is a spiritual daughter of Father Al; she is also
a wonderful example of what Aloysius Schwartz understood to be the
fruits of a missionary vocation to the poorest of the poor — she is a fel-
disciple who, having received great gifts, gives them to others.
Watching him working the soda counter at a People's Drug
Store, few would have imagined that the younger they knew as Al Schwartz
would die in 1992 at age 61, after years of patiently bearing the cross of
amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's Disease. Perhaps even fewer
would have imagined that young Al Schwartz was a nascent saint of the
Church. Venerable Father Al’s life and accomplishments are a reminder
that God really is profligate with gifts of grace, and that saints-in-the-
making are all around us as companions on the way.
By Nancy Wiehe, Catholic News Service
SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — To Andrew Galvan, Blessed Junipero Serra was a stalwart of faith and mission worthy of the title “saint.”

“He was all wood and nails. He was a tough dude. He fought, he defended, he wrangled, he was frustrated and he was frustrating,” Galvan told Catholic News Service.

A descendant of tribal members from the San Francisco Bay region, Galvan traces his family roots to California’s first Christians, thousands of whom were baptized and confirmed by the 18th-century Spanish mission.

Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Sept. 23 in Washington. Galvan said he hopes to be there.

Long a promoter of Blessed Serra, Galvan is the museum director and curator of Old Mission Dolores, the sixth-oldest of California’s 21 historical missions. He said Blessed Serra was “on fire” to heed Christ’s call to witness, like Jesus’s apostles and St. Francis of Assisi.

“His goal in life, from the time he was a novice ... was to be a missionary to Indians in the Americas, to bring the Gospel message where it had never gone before.”

Galvan said the friar, who was beatified in 1988 by St. John Paul II, never veered from that objective and went about it tirelessly, foregoing any convenience for himself.

According to his biographers, he slept little, traveled thousands of miles by foot, quietly endured injury and pain, ate modestly and spent long hours in prayer. When Blessed Serra thought he was failing in his efforts to evangelize, he blamed such defeat on his own sins.

Miquel Joseph Serra took the Franciscan habit at age 17. He chose the name Junipero, after a companion of St. Francis known for his holy simplicity. Junipero Serra became an adept student of philosophy and theology and was inspired by the stories of saints and missionaries. Always looking outward, the friar left a successful and comfortable life as a professor to embark on a missionary journey to America, knowing he would never return to Spain.

In Mexico, he spent 17 years building up Indian missions in the Sierra Gorda and traveling far and wide, preaching popular missions. In fervent sermons, he called on those who had fallen from faith to return to God’s mercy.

Blessed Junipero did not reach upper California until he was 55.

Comedian Jim Gaffigan is shown above with his five children and “FlatFrancis” in a photo he posted to his Instagram account. The popular entertainer weaves his Catholic faith into his routine and his new television show, “The Jim Gaffigan Show,” treats Catholicism seriously, but in a funny way

By Maria Macina and John Mulderig
Catholic News Service
NEW YORK (CNS) — Faith and comedy can make for an uncomfortable combination.

Wito, who engage in this volatile mix obviously need to avoid outright irreverence or the trivialization of the sacred. Yet they also have to be wary of artificial restraint since genuine humor depends, to some degree at least, on a sense of realism and recognition.

So plaudits are due to the folks behind the new TV Land program “The Jim Gaffigan Show.” Remarkably, they’ve managed to strike just the right balance between the weighty topic of religious devotion and the comically challenging situations to which the exercise of Catholic piety can all too often lead in today’s mixed-up world.

The single-camera series, which airs 10-10:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesdays, stars the stand-up comedian of the title playing a fictionalized version of himself. Taking its lead from Gaffigan’s popular fact-based routine, the show finds his alter ego sharing a two-bedroom apartment in New York City with his wife, Jeanie (Ashley Williams), and their five young children.

Written and executive produced by Gaffigan in collaboration with the real Jeanie, the program portrays the ongoing juggling act the screen couple must engage in to meet the competing demands of family, faith and Jim’s professional life as an entertainer.

Jim’s outsized love of food is another recurring theme and source of laughs.

Episodes often feature surprise guest appearances by the likes of Chris Rock, Macaulay Culkin and Janeane Garofalo. Shot in New York, the series does a great job of showcasing the city and such iconic Gotham landmarks as Katz’s Deli.

Catholicism is front-and-center in the Gaffigan household: The family attends Mass; Jim and Jeanie plan to send their children to parochial school; a cross and a painting of Mary adorn the walls of the couple’s bedroom.

Although the scripts do not shy away from controversial issues, making the show unsuitable for youngsters, such topics are treated in a positive, funny and mostly family-friendly way.

There are some mild language concerns, however, as well as more prominent lifestyle situations that call for mature discernment. These mostly involve the supporting characters.

Jim’s best friend and fellow comedian, Dave Marks (Adam Goldberg), for instance, is a would-be Casanova always on the lookout for his next conquest.

Realtor Daniel Benjamin (Michael Ian Black), Jeanie’s closest pal — who doubles as a verbal sparring partner for Jim — is gay.

While treating of the moral questions over which the culture wars continue to be fought is sometimes flippant and imprecise, “The Jim Gaffigan Show” does succeed in its broader presentation of Catholic family life. It thus achieves two important goals simultaneously.

Even as it demonstrates that a television comedy need not rely lazily on off-color humor, the series effectively pushes back against the increasing effort in contemporary society to marginalize Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular.

Mulderig is the staff and Macina is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, invite students grades 4th – 12th to submit original art, prose, poetry, musical compositions and videos; all reflecting the theme “The Merciful Family.”

“The work should display their God-given talents and convey how we live our call to be merciful within our families and in our communities,” explains Socorro Truchan, Associate Director, Domestic Church.

The contest is open to students in Catholic schools, public schools and home schools (who attend faith-formation catechetical classes).

Contest criteria may be found on the diocesan website: www.dioskoo.org/events/the-merciful-family-student-contest

Send in entries between September 15, 2015 and February 15, 2016 to be eligible for a number of great prizes.

Mail to: National Student Contest, Diocese of Kalamazoo, 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

For additional information contact: Socorro Truchan, Email: struchan@diokzoo.org.

Recent contest winners have included:

Enis V, grade 5th, Saint John the Baptist Catholic School (Kalamazoo) with a piece entitled “A Day in the Life of a Nain.”

Sandra M., grade 5th, Sacred Heart Catholic School (Kalamazoo) with a piece entitled “Voci del cuore.”

Blessed Serra described as missionary ‘on fire’ heeding Christ’s call

‘Jim Gaffigan Show’ treats Catholicism seriously, but in a funny way

Comedian Jim Gaffigan is shown above with his five children and “FlatFrancis” in a photo he posted to his Instagram account. The popular entertainment weaves his Catholic faith into his routine and his new television show.

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

THE GOOD NEWS | 9

Diocese offers second annual student art contest

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Diocese of Kalamazoo

Student Art, Writing, Music and Video National Contest

“The Merciful Family”

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Ministerio con los campesinos


Las Parroquias de la Diócesis, abrieron sus puertas para dar hospitalidad a los campesinos que llegaron de Texas, Florida, México y otros lugares y recordarles que Kalamazoo es su Diócesis y que estas, son sus parroquias. Hemos tendido un gran número de valiosos voluntarios y voluntarias que alegremente compartieron con este ministerio haciendo actividad en los 415 campos que cubre la Diócesis.

Como parte también del programa pastoral de verano, nuestro Obispo Paul Bradley celebró la Misa en un campo; Confirma a varios campesinos migrantes y los invita a la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción el 22 de agosto y Presidió la Misa de la Fiesta Diocesana del 16 de agosto, la Fiesta de la Familia con la participación de más de mil personas.

Agradecemos profundamente a todos los voluntarios que directamente e indirectamente ayudaron en el ministerio con los campesinos migrantes. Los invitamos a una cena de agradecimiento el jueves 24 de septiembre del 2015 a las 6:00 p.m. en el auditorio del Lawrence Education Center, 1521 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. Al lado del Hospital de Borges. Por favor llame al 269-903-0197 para confirmar su asistencia.

Gracias Voluntarios de Migrant Ministry

Ante Una Espiritualidad Migrante

Por el Padre Oscar Londoño Palacio

Más de una vez, dentro de la Iglesia, hemos caído en la tentación de contraponer la vida activa y la contemplativa, el compromiso y la oración, y más concretamente, hemos considerado la lucha por la justicia social y la vida espiritual, def. de ambos como realidades diferentes. Olvidando que toda la vida cristiana se mueve dentro de la dinámica del mudo en manos de Dios y al hombre, de la caridad efectiva y efectiva con Dios y con el próximo.

La caridad universal a los hombres, precisamente para ser afectiva y efectiva, debe llegar a personas determinadas que viven en unas circunstancias concretas. De que la forma de ejercer este amor a los hombres a lo largo de la historia de la Iglesia y a lo ancho de la geografía del mundo puede ser variable, puede y debe seguir siendo individual y ocasional, de persona a persona, pero también institucional, estructural y política, en el sentido genérico de la palabra, y ejercida por los seguidores de Jesús desde la iglesia. Qué me ha llamado a dar gracias al Creador:

• Un grupo de buenos cristianos y cristianas, desde sus parroquias, individualmente y de manera anónima, actúan empujados por el amor al próximo de muchas maneras y en diferentes circunstancias de su vida, prestando su ayuda material, compartiendo sus medios económicos, su tiempo disponible, sus cualidades y sus habilidades, y, sobre todo, su corazón, su atención, su bondad y su amistad.

Un voluntariado que desde las parroquias y centros especializados, en especial el Centro Alemán y los acompañantes a diferentes campos, se hacen portadores de una cultura de la gratuidad y de la solidaridad, en medio de una sociedad competitiva, interesada, y pragmática. Estos voluntarios, no tienen otra motivación en su trabajo más que el respeto y el amor a sus semejantes, sean estos, nosotros, hispanos y/o blancos o negros, todos ellos suponen un grito profético en favor de la fraternidad y de la solidaridad, testificando día a día que la última palabra debe tener el reconocimiento del otro y sus necesidades.

• Un obispo-pastor, unos sacerdotes, religiosas/as y laicos que se acercan a todos y a compartir su vida y sus problemas; para ayudarles con discernimiento de razas, lenguas, cultura o religión; con el fin de acogerles y ofrecerles su amistad y su solidaridad, defendiéndoles frente a los que se aprovechan de su debilidad. Trabajando por sus derechos y siendo voz de los sin voz para hacer oír sus legítimas reivindicaciones.

• Una población hispana que espera en la “Providencia de Dios”. Esa providencia se hace efectiva y afectiva con la presencia de la Iglesia entre ellos, celebrando y solidarizándose en todo momento, donde cada niño, joven, adulto y anciano vive en muchas ocasiones la miseria de la discriminación, donde si no trabaja no come, donde su competencia es la productividad, donde la perdida de la memoria de sus congeres hace que los que fueron migrantes muchas veces sean hoy los opresores, olvidando que si solamente vivimos para trabajar, nos convertimos en esclavos. Doy gracias por acogerme y por hacerme sentir HIJO DE DIOS.

Forteante las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #15)

Por Verónica Rodríguez

Encuentro Mundial de las Familias: Del 22 al 25 de septiembre en Filadelfia, Pennsylvania, se llevará a cabo el Encuentro Mundial de las Familias. El tema del encuentro es “El amor es nuestra misión: La familia plenamente viva”. Habrá presentaciones para adultos y jóvenes adultos. Las presentaciones serán sobre cómo puede mejorar y fortalecer la relación de su familia con Dios, al igual que conversaciones sobre las alegrías y los retos de las familias. Después del Encuentro Mundial de las Familias, el Papa Francisco hará su visita a Filadelfia el 26 y 27 de septiembre.

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo llevará a un grupo para este Encuentro. Para aquellos que no puedan asistir a Filadelfia, el 26 de septiembre, la Diócesis pasará a ser parte del Encuentro de la Parroquia de St. Catherine, Portage. El evento en St. Catherine comienza con una Misa a las 9:00am presidida por el Señor Obispo Paul Bradley.

En el próximo mes hablaremos más del Encuentro Mundial y la visita del Papa Francisco.

“La familia que experimenta la alegría de la fe se comunica de forma natural. Esa familia es la esencia de la tierra y la luz del mundo; es la levadura de la sociedad.” Papa Francisco, 27 de octubre del 2013.

Calendario/Calendar

Septiembre/ September

Tempora del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano hasta noviembre, (Diocesan Migrant Ministry Season, until November).

22 – 6 a 9 p.m. Comienza un nuevo grupo de Recuperacion de Trauma en español. Para más información llamar al 269-903-0209 o – 269-929-7048 y deje su número de teléfono y mensaje.

12 (Sábado) – 9 a.m. Retiro de Quincenaerías. Día de reflexión. Para las jovencitas que van a celebrar sus quince años y los padres de las jovencitas. Lugar: Parroquia de St. Joseph, 906 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001.


Programa de Consejería en Español: Programa de Recuperación de Traumas

Ya hemos trabajado con tres grupos en español; los participantes han expresado que se han beneficiado bastante de este programa y estamos listos para comenzar un nuevo grupo el 22 de septiembre del próximo año 2015. Si usted conoce a alguna persona que en su infancia o de adulto sufrió cualquier tipo de trauma (físico, sexual, negligencia, etc.,) para ayudarle, por favor remítalos a sínos. Lissette M. Araya (269) 929-7048 o Fanny Tabares (269) 903-0209. Es indispensable hacer cita personal lo más pronto posible con la consejera Lissette M. Araya.

El Programa de Recuperación de Traumas está basado en el Modelo de Trauma, un modelo psico-educacional que ayuda a las personas a aprender cómo integrar sus sentimientos, pensamientos y comportamientos. Las investigaciones actuales indican que los recuerdos en la memoria, en el mejor de los casos, son de poco fiable. Por lo tanto, este modelo infunde vivir eficientemente en el presente en lugar de re-establecer recuerdos reprimidos. La curación no toma lugar en el nivel de los recuerdos. La curación ocurre en el nivel del procesamiento e integración de los sentimientos, pensamientos, percepciones, y comportamientos. El traumo es un suceso o una serie de sucesos combinados con la vulnerabilidad de una persona que crea un obstáculo en el normal desarrollo humano.

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo ha comenzado el Programa de “Trauma Recovery” en inglés desde hace 12 años y ha tenido un gran éxito a nivel nacional e internacional y ahora lo está ofreciendo en español. Aproveche de esta oportunidad de consejería gratuita si usted o alguien que usted conoce lo necesita.

Programa de Consejería en Español: Programa de Recuperación de Traumas
JustFaith founder stops by Kalamazoo; new groups start next month

Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith ministries, stopped by a room of clergy and pastoral ministers last month during a session entitled, “Making Missionary Disciples.” He centered on the themes of the changing role of laity in the Church and echoed Pope Francis’ call to be the Church to all people, everywhere.

JustFaith, now in its twelfth year in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, will begin a new session on October 5, St. Thomas More Parish.

This comprehensive A comprehensive justice education and spiritual formation program involves prayer, reading and discussion within a group setting meeting weekly. Additionally two retreats and hands-on experiences are provided throughout the 27 weeks. The program is geared toward anyone who wants to learn more about the Church’s justice tradition.

Cost is approximately $150 per person for books, payable in installments as books are introduced. Book loans and financial aid is available.

No one will be turned away. Contact JustFaith graduates: Norman Young 269-324-6199, ndyoung@charternet.net, St. Catherine of Siena Parish or Tony Nelson 269-375-7363, mtnelson1@charternet.net, St. Thomas More Student Parish.

Papal Visit 2015 Resources

Even if you can’t get to the East Coast for the historic papal visit this month keep track of Pope Francis by visiting these few great resources:

www.usccb.org — will live stream major papal events

www.evin.com — will cover most papal events

www.diokzoo.org — official website of World Meeting of the Families

POPE FRANCIS SCHEDULE (HIGHLIGHTS)

Tuesday, September 22 (WASHINGTON, DC)

• 4 p.m. — Visit to Cuba at Joint Base Andrews

Wednesday, September 23 (WASHINGTON, DC)

• 9:15 a.m. Welcome ceremony, meeting with President Obama at White House

• 4:15 p.m. Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, September 24 (WASHINGTON, DC, NEW YORK CITY)

• 9:20 a.m. Address to Joint Meeting of the United States Congress

• 11:15 a.m. Visit to St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

Friday, September 25 (NEW YORK CITY)

• 8:30 a.m. Visit to the United Nations and Address to the United Nations General Assembly

• 11:30 a.m. Multireligious service at 9/11 Memorial and Museum, World Trade Center

• 4:00 p.m. Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School, East Harlem

• 6:00 p.m. Mass at Madison Square Garden

Saturday, September 26 (NEW YORK CITY, PHILADELPHIA)

• 10:30 a.m. Visit to Catholic Cathedral Basilicas of St. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia

• 4:45 p.m. Visit to Independence Mall

• 7:30 p.m. Visit to the Festival of Families Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Sunday, September 27 (PHILADELPHIA)

• 11:00 a.m. Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility

• 4:00 p.m. Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families

• 7:00 p.m. Visit with volunteers, organizers and benefactors of the World Meeting of Families

• 8:00 p.m. Departure for Rome

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 877-802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free number was 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 institutions or religious organizations, please contact the appropriate diocesan parish, school or diocesan office directly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective services.
The Ark feels the love as runners raise money for youth shelter, get covered in color

On August 15, The Ark Services for Youth, an arm of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, held its first Celebrate Youth 5K Color Run race at Hackett Catholic Prep.

Runners were covered in a different color at each kilometer. Along with the race, there was a “Youth Booth” fair with information about youth-serving organizations. All proceeds went toward The Ark.

The Ark is a kind of hidden jewel in the greater-Kalamazoo area. Each year, The Ark provides services and housing to more than 300 youth and crisis intervention to at least 1,000 more at no cost to the youth or family. For youth ages 10 to 17, they provide safe, temporary shelter for those who have run away from home, are homeless, or are experiencing a crisis situation. The shelter is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and youth may stay for up to 21 days. In addition to providing a safe place to stay, The Ark helps with problem-solving, case management and advocacy for youth and their families and can make referrals with other agencies as needed. While in the shelter, youth are met with an emphasis on positive youth development and modeling healthy lifestyle behaviors.

The Ark also offers transitional housing, crisis intervention and employment, educational life skills support and training for youth ages 17 to 21 through their supported community living facility.

Salesian “Old Boys” generous donation aids St. Basil’s sister parish in El Salvador

Clean water and emergency medical needs are just a few of the benefits made possible for a small parish in El Salvador thanks to the generosity of a group tied to the Salesians.

Early this year, a group of generous donors, who call themselves “Salesian Old Boys” gave Fr. Bob Flickinger and St. Basil Parish $5,600 for its sister parish, El Sitio de Cenicero in El Salvador.

The Salesian Old Boys have past ties to the religious order of the Salesians of St. John Bosco as members of the order, alumni of Salesian schools or supporters of St. John Bosco’s mission to poor and abandoned youth. Members are from all over the United States and hold an annual reunion. Fr. Flickinger is a member of the Salesian Old Boys and attended a gathering in Chicago several years ago, where he discussed his involvement with the El Sitio community in El Salvador. This sparked interest in donating funds toward the sister parish efforts.

The donations will allow another water purification system to be installed and maintained. They will also go toward an emergency medical/dental program, emergency transportation fund, seed money for the creation of a women’s co-op, and financial help for school supplies and catechetical materials.

In 2000, St. Catherine of Siena Parish entered into a sister parish relationship with El Sitio de Cenicero. St. Basil Parish joined them in 2007. The residents of this community are in large part survivors of a massacre carried out by the El Salvadorain military in November 1983 in the village of Copapayo. One hundred and fifty innocent men, women and children were murdered. Those who survived were forced to flee to United Nations refugee camps in Honduras. In 1992, a Peace Accord allowed them to resettle into where they now live.

All Saints Superfest 2015

September 25, 26 & 27

Skerbeck Brothers Carnival * Silent Auction * Food Tent * Las Vegas Games * Kids Games Tent * Booth Tent * CCW Bake Sale

St. Joseph Church Grounds, 61 North 23rd Street, Battle Creek, MI

Friday, September 25
Open 6 p.m. – Midnight

6 – 10 p.m.
St. Lawrence Grill Team, Food Tent

8 p.m. – Midnight

THE SPAZMATICS

Saturday, September 27
Open Noon – Midnight

1 – 10 p.m.
St. Lawrence Grill Team, Food Tent

8 p.m. – Midnight:
The Jim Cummings Band – 80s Rock Classics

Sunday, September 27
Open Noon – 4 p.m.

Noon – 2 p.m. – Children’s Talent Show
Noon – 3 p.m. – St. Lawrence Grill Team, Food Tent
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Silent Auction Closing
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Live Auction
4 p.m. – Raffle Drawing, Grand Prize $5,000

To reserve tickets for SPAZMATICS on Friday night or The JIM CUMMINGS BAND on Saturday night.
email: info@allsaintssuperfest.org or visit www.allsaintssuperfest.org for additional information.