Bishop releases pastoral letter “Moving Forward in Hope: Charting the Course for the Future”

By Vicki Cessna

On the heels of the newly implemented Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Bishop Paul J. Bradley has released his fourth pastoral letter for the faithful of the Diocese. Entitled “Moving Forward in Hope: Charting the Course for the Future,” the letter details the background for the need for the pastoral plan and also includes the vision for the future.

In the introduction, Bishop Bradley writes, “It is my hope, dear family of faith, that in light of this background and understanding, and with a more equitable distribution of our priests among our 59 parishes and 28 Parish Collaboratives to accompany us along the way, we will continue to move forward in hope along our journey of faith.”

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan called for the creation of 28 Parish Collaboratives which were introduced this past spring. On July 1st nearly 80 percent of all active priests began a new pastoral assignment at one of the 28 Parish Collaboratives. Some priests took on roles such as hospital chaplains and spiritual moderators.

The ratio of priests to parishioners in the Diocese mirrors the national trend with 1 priest for every 1,900 parishioners (the national average is 1 to 1,800). Bishop Bradley notes the plan is “temporary” which may mean 10 years while, God willing, more men answer the call to the priesthood. In addition the plan purposely honors the unique identity of each parish community as all parishes remain open.

New to the diocese under the pastoral plan is the introduction of “terms” for pastors. Each of the pastors assigned to lead a Parish Collaborative received an assignment for a six-year term with the possibility of a renewal of that term for another six years.

In conjunction with the beginning of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan Bishop Bradley also called for each parish to adopt a renewal program.

“The most important thing is to make this time of spiritual renewal a first priority for all our collaborators for these next few weeks and months so that we will hear more clearly Jesus’ voice and realize more deeply who we are, as individuals, as parishioners, as members of the Diocese of Kalamazoo…” writes Bishop Bradley.

“Moving Forward in Hope: Charting the Course for the Future” is available in multiple formats. You may download a copy available on the diocesan website (www.diokzoo.org). A limited number of printed copies are being made available at the parishes. For additional copies or questions please contact the diocesan Office of Communications, 269-903-0163.

Rosary walk showcases students’ artistic talents

By Vicki Cessna

What started as a way to engage St. Mary’s Visitation school children in the Byron Center parish’s 150th anniversary celebration has blossomed into an attractive rosary walk. Nestled on the beautiful countryside grounds between the church building and the school building, the rosary walk features handcrafted mosaic stones, each created to symbolize the beads in a rosary. With a template and guidance from teachers and parents, the mosaics were created by St. Mary’s Visitation Catholic school students. The cross at the entrance is the compilation of mosaics representing each class from preschool through sixth grade. Featured at the center of the rosary walk is a Mary Garden with each flower and plant carefully selected for its connection to the Blessed Mother and each color representing a different mystery of the rosary.

St. Mary’s Visitation School parent Joelle Baldwin said the project idea came from an anniversary planning committee member who enjoys a rosary walk at her winter parish in Florida. “The children were very excited about the project,” said Baldwin. “They took great pride in their work.” Many generous parishioners also helped in the creation of the rosary walk through monetary donations and gifts. Much of the construction and groundwork was donated and one local farmers sold corn and donated the proceeds to offset the cost of the project. Baldwin notes that the rosary garden is already attracting a fair number of people looking to spend some quiet time with the Blessed Mother.

Putting the finishing touches on the project will be a commissioned sculpture of the Visitation by artist Timothy Schmalz, expected to be completed in early 2017.
FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

“Here you go, Dad. I brought you something.”

Gently, I handed my dying father a rosary. I thought it might bring him comfort to keep the bright red, white and blue-beaded, handcrafted in the Dominican Republic, rosary close to him. To my surprise he immediately placed it around his neck. He was still wearing it when he took his last breath, just two days later.

Today that rosary holds a special place in my heart. I keep it close to me — sometimes it’s nestled in my purse for easy access or it’s in my office, dangling from a frame holding the photo of my dad and I on my wedding day. I like to think I’m just a little more connected to my dad when I’m holding it and that it brings me the same type of peace I hope it brought him.

It’s a powerful thing, this rosary, and every other one I have as well. The prayers, the meditation, the intercession of Our Lady — all tangibly represented in 59 interlocking beads — what an immeasurable gift we have. During this month dedicated to the rosary may you be as blessed by its power and embrace its graces.

Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services weekend of Nov. 6th

Established in 1985 by St. John Paul II, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) is the only archdiocese, or non-profit organization, that provides the Catholic Church’s full range of pastoral ministries specifically to Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs’ Medical Centers, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. As the only source of Catholic chaplains for the U.S. military and Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, the AMS and its endorsed priests and deacons are responsible for pastoral service to approximately 1.8 million Catholics.

While the salaries and retirement of military and VA chaplains are paid for by the government, the AMS does not receive any funding from the military or the government in support of programs and services vital to the mission and ministry of the AMS, including Vocations, Evangelization and Catechesis. Sacramental Records, Tribunal and Veterans Affairs.

Unlike a conventional diocese, the AMS has no parishes or parish registries, and no weekly collections. Funds from this triennial collection support these programs and services. To learn more about the AMS visit http://www.milarch.org/

IN MEMORIAM

Deacon Bernie Mileinski passed into eternal life on Sept. 12 after a long battle with Muscular Dystrophy. His funeral Mass was celebrated at his home parish of St. Philip in Battle Creek, celebrated by Bishop Bradley and concelebrated by Bishop Murray and many diocesan priests and deacons. Dcn. Bernie is survived by his wife Sharon, their three children and eight grandchildren. Eternal rest grant unto Deacon Bernie, oh Lord, and let Your perpetual Light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

The Good News

The Monthly Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Kalamazoo

The Good News is the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, assignments, etc. issued under the caption “Official” are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinion columns, feature and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

Published: monthly/10 times per year

DISTRIBUTION: The first weekend of the month via parish bulletins.

Circulation: 20,000. BRAGGLES: Advertising must be received by the 1st of the month preceding the month of publication. Making address: THE GOOD NEWS, Diocese of Kalamazoo, 215 N. Western Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007; Telephone: 269-487-6000. Email: vcessna@diokzoo.org.

NOTICE: The November edition will be distributed in all parishes November 5 & 6.

IN MEMORIAM

Deacon Bernie Mileinski passed into eternal life on Sept. 12 after a long battle with Muscular Dystrophy. His funeral Mass was celebrated at his home parish of St. Philip in Battle Creek, celebrated by Bishop Bradley and concelebrated by Bishop Murray and many diocesan priests and deacons. Dcn. Bernie is survived by his wife Sharon, their three children and eight grandchildren. Eternal rest grant unto Deacon Bernie, oh Lord, and let Your perpetual Light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Pope Francis OCTOBER Intentions

Universal: Journalists

That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

Evangelization: World Mission Day

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

Diocesan Announcements and Appointments

Rev. Paul Redmond has been appointed as Parochial Vicar to St. Charles Parish, Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City, effective Sept. 21, 2016. Fr. Redmond was ordained in May and previously served as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph.

Retirement: Rev. Matthew Illikatil, former Pastor of St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, retired last month and attains Senior Priest status. Fr. Illikatil will reside in Florida.

Collaborative update

Immaculate Conception, Hartford, has been joined with the Parish Collaborative of St. Peter Parish, Douglas and San Felipe de Jesus, Fennville. Rev. Fabio Garzon and Rev. German Perez-Diaz will be pastors “in solidum.” St. Joseph Parish, Water Valley, will be a stand-alone Collaborative for the time being.

Rev. Al Jorgensen begins his assignment as Pastor “in solidum” this month for St. John Bosco, Mattawan; St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw and St. Margaret Mary, Marcellus. Rev. Ben Huehn assumes the role of Pastor for Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan and continues his assignment as pastor, St. Margaret Parish, Otsego.

Edward Carey, Jr. has been appointed Chief Financial Officer/Director of Human Resources/Coordinator of Special Projects for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Currently Carey is Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Prior to his work with the Diocese of Grand Rapids, he held leadership positions with the Diocese of Kalamazoo for 13 years, including the roles of Chancellor and Diocesan Fiscal Manager.

“We are very happy to welcome Ed back to his home Diocese to assume these major leadership positions within our Diocesan Pastoral Staff”, said Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

“Ed brings us his valuable gifts of great expertise, a wealth of experience, and multiple talents within the fields of financial management and administration, as well as the important area of Human Resources. In addition, he already knows our Diocese very well, having worked in leadership roles under all three previous Bishops, Bishop Emeritus James Murray, Bishop Alfred Markiewicz and Bishop Paul V. Donovan. I enthusiastically welcome Ed and look forward to the many ways I am certain he will once more greatly contribute to the growth and financial well-being of our Catholic community here in southwest Michigan.” Carey, his wife and four children are parishioners at St. Augustine Cathedral Parish. He will begin his position October 17.

Peggy Hanley has joined the Diocesan Pastoral Center staff as the Administrative Assistant for the Offices of Vocations and the Vicar General. Peggy can be reached at phanley@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0203. Please note, Marina Hentz, formerly in this role, has shifted roles to Associate Director, Safe Environment and may now be reached at mhentz@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0171.

United States Council of Catholic Bishops elects to serve Bishop Bradley was recently elected to serve as one of three bishops on the National Advisory Council to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. The Council is a consultative body made up of members of the laity, including religious and priests, to advise the USCCB. Charlie Young, a lay leader and parishioner of St. Ann Parish, Augusta, has served on this National Advisory Council, and was just elected to a leadership position within that body. Bishop Bradley will serve a three-year term.

Safe Environment Audit

The Diocese of Kalamazoo underwent a Safe Environment audit conducted at the end of August by Stone Bridge Business Partners for compliance with the U.S. Bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Diocese was found compliant with all audited articles for the 2015/2016 audit period. “We take great pride in the fact that our Diocese and all our parishes and institutions provide a safe and secure place for our children and young people to grow in their faith,” said Bishop Bradley. A special thanks to all the parish staffs, volunteers, priests, and Diocesan Pastoral Center personnel that assisted in the audit.
The Responsibility to Choose Faithfully

The month of October is one of the most beautiful months of the year. When the weather cooperates, October brings the change of seasons in the glorious fall colors, the falling leaves and the cooler temperatures. It’s a month when our schedules have returned to normal and people’s days are busy with lots of activities. Liturgically, October is the month dedicated to special devotion to our Blessed Mother through the praying of the rosary. And October is also “Respect Life Month,” a time for all of us to examine all the dimensions of how we can affirm and support human life as the most sacred gift from God that it is. The national theme for this year’s Respect Life Month is “Moved by Mercy,” which is not only to honor this special Jubilee Year of Mercy which Pope Francis called the entire church to observe and which concludes at the end of next month, but it is also a rallying cry to all of us to be moved to action to protect the precious and sacred gift of human life of all ages and at all stages.

Of course our commitment to protect life from the moment of conception through natural death is not limited to a month but is a commitment that should be woven into everything we do. And everything of course includes our duty as citizens to engage in the political system. It was just a little more than a year ago that our country was graced by the historic Apostolic Pilgrimage of Pope Francis to the United States. One of his most captivating and powerful speeches was the one he gave to the Joint Session of Congress. In the opening of that talk, the Holy Father reminded the elected officials what their duty is. He said, “Each son or daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility. Your own responsibility as members of Congress is to enable this country, by your legislative activity, to grow as a nation. You are the face of its people, their representatives. You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics. A political society endures when it seeks, as a vocation, to satisfy common needs by stimulating the growth of all its members, especially those situations of greater vulnerability or risk. Legislative activity is always based on care for the people. To this you have been invited, called and convened by those who elected you.”

It is clear to everyone that this year’s Presidential campaign is one of the most divisive and challenging ones most of us have ever witnessed, and yet it is our responsibility as faithful citizens to participate in the political process and to cast our votes for those who will lead us and our country in the future, from President of the U.S. to those important offices of our local communities. It is very obvious that neither major political party is the “Catholic party.” It is not my role as your Bishop nor is it the role of the Church to tell anyone for whom to vote. However, it is my role and that of the Church, as always, to teach the Gospel of Jesus and the Truths of our faith which guide all aspects of our lives. We are to make our choices as citizens of the country, but more importantly, as citizens who are faithful Catholics and followers of Jesus Christ. We have a sacred responsibility to choose faithfully, and to do so, we must have a well-formed conscience.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains what a well-formed conscience is in this way: “Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act…[Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he/she knows to be just and right.” (CCC, #1778). This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. As faithful Catholics, we must defend human life from the moment of conception until the last moment before natural death; we must respect the dignity of every human being and other human rights because each person is a child of God. That is what it means to make our “Respect Life” commitment.

As we wade through the political environment and discern our choices, I would like to make three suggestions for each of us to consider: 1) study the Scriptures; 2) examine the facts and background of our choices; and 3) pray.

1. Study of Scripture: Perhaps now more than ever as we prepare for this presidential election, it would be very important for each of us to take additional time reflecting on the daily Scripture Readings. Later on in that same address to Congress I referred to earlier, Pope Francis invited all of us to “avoid a common temptation nowadays — to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you’.” (Mt. 7:12) It is likely that most of us learned that “Rule” very early in our lives. It is simple; yet so profound. As Pope Francis continued to explain: “This Rule points us in a clear direction. Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunity, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which will time will use for us. The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development.”
Organizations come together to promote ministry for young adults

By Jay Cessna

“I hope the biggest accomplishment of the Young Adult Fair, in a word: ‘connectivity.’ Even if it means they are not connected to a specific ministry but that they are connected through community.”

This was the one goal that Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the diocese, the organizer of the event hoped would come to fruition.

The first Young Adult Fair, a convention showcasing all the events in the community geared to young adults, was held on Saturday, September 17 in Kalamazoo. The fair opened with Mass, celebrated by Rev. Francis Marotti and Rev. Andrew Raczkowski. The theme of the convention was “Making a better community,” made clear when Fr. Marotti gave the participants this advice: “…daily prayer, frequent confession and weekly Mass makes for a successful diocese.”

A wide variety of groups were represented, including sports, mission trips, music and retreats, all of which had the same target audience. Until now all of these groups were trying to start up a stronger young adult community individually. Brought together through the Young Adult Fair the organizations are hoping to come together to make not only the community, but the faith, that much stronger.

As part of the fair, representatives from featured organizations presented what their organization or ministry had to offer as well as what their plans were to bring everyone closer to God and each other.

Fr. Raczkowski gave a heartfelt presentation about his life and his faith, saying, “…When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, he gives meaning to everything.”

When asked what his hopes were for young adults, Fr. Raczkowski said, “I hope the community gains many more people to come together in faith.”

Jay Cessna is a young adult living in Kalamazoo and a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

**Young Adult Ministries and Resources:**

- Following is a list of Young Adult Fair ministries
- Cats on Rockets (COR): Jolene Green and Mikayla Ruth Kolbe, speakers and musicians www.catsonrockets.org
- Kzoo Catholic Sports League (KCSL): Lisa Eberhoeh, lisa.eberhoeh@gmail.com; Facebook – Kzoo Catholic Sports League
- Diocese of Kalamazoo Young Adult Ministry: Tim McNamara, tmcmnamara@kd.org; 269-933-0319
- Theology on Tap, Michigan Catholic Young Adult Conferences

**Diocese of Kalamazoo Young Adult Ministry:**

- St. Monica Young Adult Group: Alanna Kenney, akenney@nd.edu or StMonicaChurchKzoo.com
- St. Thomas More Young Adult Ministry: Lisa LeVasseur, lisa@sttomskzoo.org; Facebook “St. Tom’s Young Adult Group”

**Diocese of Kalamazoo Policy on Non-Discrimination**

The Schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, subject to the limitations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs and activities, employment policies or contractual agreements.

The “after” people: Stephen Ministers provide care in life’s crisis

Just call Stephen Ministers the “after” people—After you find the pink slip in what’s now your final paycheck; after the doctors have given you or a loved one a serious diagnosis; after the relationship ends but the wounds are still healing; after family and friends have heard your story one too many times but you still need to talk about it. That’s when the Stephen Ministers Southwest Michigan step in.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have been trained to offer Christian support to people struggling through a difficult time. “A Stephen Minister is somebody who’s going to walk beside you during a time of need,” says Carol Swope, Director of Edwardsburg Stephen Ministry based at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. “They’re going to hold your hand the whole way. Nearly one-third of our care receivers are from outside the Church. If you want to talk, they’ll listen. If you want prayer, they’ll pray. If you just want to sit there and cry, that’s fine too.”

Our Lady of the Lake, Hope United Methodist Church (UMC) and Edwardsburg Presbyterian joined together a little over a year ago to commission 18 Stephen Ministers who are providing care to anyone in the community who needs it. In May, St. Mary’s Parish in Niles, Mich., joined the team with seven additional newly trained ministers.

“Stephen Ministry is helping people walk through a difficult time in their life’s and showing them Christian care,” said Willis Bartlett, co-teacher in the program. “It’s what the Church is supposed to be. We are here to listen and care — not to try to fix things or tell you what to do,” said Lynn Oberling, Stephen Minister from Hope UMC.

The ministry itself works like this: Lay members of local congregations are trained through 50 hours of Christian caregiving skills. Topics include listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations such as childbirth, divorce, aging, terminal illness, and all types of grief. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a person’s needs go beyond the care a lay person can provide, and where and how to refer the person for additional care from a professional.

After Stephen Ministers are commissioned, Stephen Leaders link them with care receivers — people who need emotional and spiritual care. “Stephen Ministers provide much more one-to-one support than we clergy could ever provide alone,” says Pastor Scott Scheel from Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church.

“There are so many people who need care and support for an extended period of time in order to heal and recover, so it’s a real plus to me as a pastor.”

This month the ministry will expand its training for outreach to military families, according to Swope.

“We are very excited to also be expanding our outreach by receiving additional training through the national H.E.R.O.E.s Care program so that we are better equipped to deal with military families and service men and women returning home from deployment.”

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine lay persons at his congregation in St. Louis to be Stephen Ministers. Today, more than 12,000 congregations are involved, representing more than 170 different Christian denominations from all 50 states, nine Canadian provinces and 24 other countries. Contact 269-445-7425 to schedule time with a Stephen Minister.

Third annual student contest gets new name, focuses on evangelization

“Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church is offering their third annual student contest, recently renamed the Catholic Families Student Contest. Students in two divisions — Religious Education and Catholic School (Catholic school attendance is not a requirement) — will receive awards made possible by the Knights of Columbus. Winners will be announced before the end of the school year. For more information, visit diokzoo.org/student-art-contest.

After Stephen Ministers are commissioned, Stephen Leaders link them with care receivers — people who need emotional and spiritual care. “Stephen Ministers provide much more one-to-one support than we clergy could ever provide alone,” says Pastor Scott Scheel from Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church.

There are so many people who need care and support for an extended period of time in order to heal and recover, so it’s a real plus to be a pastor.”

This month the ministry will expand its training for outreach to military families, according to Swope.

“We are very excited to also be expanding our outreach by receiving additional training through the national H.E.R.O.E.s Care program so that we are better equipped to deal with military families and service men and women returning home from deployment.”

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine lay persons at his congregation in St. Louis to be Stephen Ministers. Today, more than 12,000 congregations are involved, representing more than 170 different Christian denominations from all 50 states, nine Canadian provinces and 24 other countries. Contact 269-445-7425 to schedule time with a Stephen Minister.

Pray for Vocations
Visit www.diokzoo.org
Download Prayer Card for Vocations

Third annual student contest gets new name, focuses on evangelization

“The after’” people: Stephen Ministers provide care in life’s crisis

Just call Stephen Ministers the “after” people — After you find the pink slip in what’s now your final paycheck; after the doctors have given you or a loved one a serious diagnosis; after the relationship ends but the wounds are still healing; after family and friends have heard your story one too many times but you still need to talk about it. That’s when the Stephen Ministers Southwest Michigan step in.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have been trained to offer Christian support to people struggling through a difficult time. “A Stephen Minister is somebody who’s going to walk beside you during a time of need,” says Carol Swope, Director of Edwardsburg Stephen Ministry based at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. “They’re going to hold your hand the whole way. Nearly one-third of our care receivers are from outside the Church. If you want to talk, they’ll listen. If you want prayer, they’ll pray. If you just want to sit there and cry, that’s fine too.”

Our Lady of the Lake, Hope United Methodist Church (UMC) and Edwardsburg Presbyterian joined together a little over a year ago to commission 18 Stephen Ministers who are providing care to anyone in the community who needs it. In May, St. Mary’s Parish in Niles, Mich., joined the team with seven additional newly trained ministers.

“Stephenu Ministeri is helping people walk through a difficult time in their life’s and showing them Christian care,” said Willis Bartlett, co-teacher in the program. “It’s what the Church is supposed to be. We are here to listen and care — not to try to fix things or tell you what to do,” said Lynn Oberling, Stephen Minister from Hope UMC.

The ministry itself works like this: Lay members of local congregations are trained through 50 hours of Christian caregiving skills. Topics include listening, feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations such as childbirth, divorce, aging, terminal illness, and all types of grief. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a person’s needs go beyond the care a lay person can provide, and where and how to refer the person for additional care from a professional.

After Stephen Ministers are commissioned, Stephen Leaders link them with care receivers — people who need emotional and spiritual care. “Stephen Ministers provide much more one-to-one support than we clergy could ever provide alone,” says Pastor Scott Scheel from Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church.

“There are so many people who need care and support for an extended period of time in order to heal and recover, so it’s a real plus to me as a pastor.”

This month the ministry will expand its training for outreach to military families, according to Swope.

“We are very excited to also be expanding our outreach by receiving additional training through the national H.E.R.O.E.s Care program so that we are better equipped to deal with military families and service men and women returning home from deployment.”

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine lay persons at his congregation in St. Louis to be Stephen Ministers. Today, more than 12,000 congregations are involved, representing more than 170 different Christian denominations from all 50 states, nine Canadian provinces and 24 other countries. Contact 269-445-7425 to schedule time with a Stephen Minister.

For more information, call (269) 501-6041.

Global MARKETPLACE
St. Catherine of Siena Parish
Location: Marian Hall
Saturday, Nov. 12
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
All profits go to Marketplace vendors to support their continued good work helping workers of the world to be fairly compensated for the goods and services they produce.

For more information, contact Margie Stinson via email at edmargie@stscglobal.net or call (269) 501-6041.
En Camino Hacia el V Encuentro – Parte 1

Un Encuentro Nacional del Ministerio Hispano es un evento nacional que implica un proceso desde la base y ha sido el gran catalizador para el desarrollo del ministerio hispano en los últimos cincuenta años en la Iglesia Católica de Estados Unidos. Cada uno de los Encuentros anteriores han sido una experiencia renovadora que ha cambiado significativamente la manera en que la Iglesia responde a la presencia hispana, y la forma en cómo los hispanos/latinos responden como Iglesia.

- El I Encuentro (1972) llevó a la creación de una Oficina Nacional para Asuntos Latinos.
- El II Encuentro (1975-77) llevó a la creación de ocho oficinas regionales para Asuntos Latinos.
- El III Encuentro (1982-85) llevó a la creación del Comité Asuntos Latinos en USCCB (Conferencia de los Obispos de Estados Unidos), y la promulgación del Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispánico; dando así luz verde, y una visión clara, a las diócesis y parroquias para responder a la creciente presencia hispana/latina en estados Unidos.

- Encuentro 2000: El IV Encuentro) ayudó a la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos a sepultar su diversidad cultural, a través de una experiencia de hospitalidad transformadora y un “nuevo Pentecostés”
- El Primer Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Juvenil Hispánico (2005-06), abrió nuevos caminos pas-torales en el ministerio hacia y con la juventud Hispana/Latina.

Los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos han puesto como una prioridad en su Plan Estratégico del 2017-2020 el proceso del V Encuentro del Ministerio Hispano/Latino. El V Encuentro promete ser otra experiencia renovadora que ofrece a la Iglesia la claridad, el entusiasmo y los medios que necesita para responder más adecuadamente a la presencia hispana en el espíritu de la Nueva Evangelización. En este momento de gracia, es de suma importancia superar la formación y desarrollo de liderazgo continuo de hispanos/latinos católicos. El V Encuentro es una oportunidad privilegiada para preparar discípulos misioneros listos para servir a toda la Iglesia y para que la Iglesia reconozca y reciba los dones del pueblo hispano/latino otorgada a la Iglesia y a la sociedad en Estados Unidos.


Si usted desea participar como líder en el proceso de este Encuentro en su parroquia, comuníquese con Veronica Rodriguez al 269-903-0197 o por correo electrónico a vrodriguez@diokzoo.org.

La Gratitude

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo presenta una convocatoria para la Nueva Evangelización con el lema: El Arte del Acompañamiento.

La conferencista principal será Kristin Bird del Ministerio Discípulos de los Corazones Ardiendo (Burning Hearts Disciple Ministries). Usted puede saber más de ella y su ministerio en http://burningheartsdisciples.org. Costo de la convocatoria $45 y hay descuento para grupos de 5 o más personas. Lugar: Hackett Catholic Center, 1100 Kilgore Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI. 49001.

¿Por qué una Convocatoria? Una convocatoria es un llamado a unirnos, y estamos llamando a todos los fieles a unirnos para explorar, discutir y sumergirnos en la Nueva Evangelización. ¿Por qué el tema? El tema “El arte del acompañamiento” proviene de los es- critos y discursos del Papa Francisco, especialmente alrededor del Año de la Misericordia y su más reciente Exhortación Papal. El Papa Francisco nos ha pedido que agigantemos nuestra misión de evangelización. Aquí nos pondremos a escuchar por qué tenemos que hacer esto, y algunas formas prácticas para hacerlo. La fecha de la Convocatoria: Octubre 21 y 22, usted puede venir un día o los dos. El sábado 22 de octubre habrá talleres en español: Año Jubilar: la Compasión y la Misericordia por el Padre Fabio Garzon; Metodología del Catéqui- sta: el éxito en una clase por Joe Marble; El Arte de la Evange- lización por el Padre Evelio Ramirez; Los Jóvenes en la Iglesia por el Padre Daniel Rodriguez; ¿Qué es la Catequesis y Cuali- dades de un buen catequista por los Hermanos Misioneros Siervas del Divino Espíritu de San Felipe de Jesús; y el V Encuentro de la Pastoral Hispana por Veronica Ro- driguez.

Para registrarse vaya a www.diokzooconvocation.eventbri- nker.com. Si necesita ayuda en español, comuníquese con Veronica Rodriguez o Maria Trumm al 269-903-0197, vrodriguez@diokzoo.org, mtrummm@diokzoo.org.

Fecha límite para registrarse es el 10 de Octubre para recibir el costo publicado, después del diez habrá un costo adicional de $10 por tiquete y no le podremos garantizar el almuerzo.

**VIERNES**

9:00 – 11:00 Fundamentos
10:15 – 11:15 Taller 1
11:30 – 12:30 Almuerzo
12:30 – 1:30 Taller 2
1:45-2.45 Taller 3
3:00 – 4:00 Taller 4
4:15 – 5:15 Misa

**SÁBADO**

10:00 – 11:00 Fundamentos
11:15 – 12:15 Taller 1
12:15 – 1:00 Almuerzo
1:00 – 2:00 Taller 2
2:15 – 3:15 Taller 3
3:30 Oración final
**Grief support workshop co-sponsored by Redmond Funeral Homes**
The Diocese of Kalamazoo in collaboration with Redmond Funeral Homes is sponsoring Grieving with Great HOPE – a weekend grief support workshop that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. Oct. 14-15 at St. Augustine Cathedral.

If you have lost a spouse, a child, a grandchild, a parent, another family member or a friend, you are encouraged to attend. Presenters will include Fr. Francisco Marquez and John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement apostolate. Friday’s sessions will run from 7 to 9 p.m. while Saturday’s will begin at 10 a.m. and end with 4 p.m. Mass. Cost is $25. Visit www.goodmourningministry.net for more information and registration. Questions? Contact: Fr. Truchan at 269-903-0199 or via email: struchan@diokzoo.org

**Holy Family Radio Pledge Drive comes to Kalamazoo**
Have you ever wondered what a live radio pledge drive looks like? Now’s your chance to find out! Holy Family Radio’s fall pledge drive will be Oct. 11-14, Tuesday, Oct. 11 and Thursday, Oct. 13 will be broadcast live from Newman’s Bookshoppe in downtown Kalamazoo.

“Holy Family Radio is proud to announce the Fall Pledge Drive live right from the studio in Newman’s Bookshoppe in Kalamazoo, and would like to encourage people to come and see “YOUR local Catholic radio station in action,” said Robert Mulderink, General Manager of Holy Family Radio. Newman’s Bookshoppe and Holy Family Radio are both Catholic resources for the Diocese of Kalamazoo and are a natural partnership, says Steve Goffney, Director of Newman’s Bookshoppe. During the pledge drive broadcasts, all are welcome to visit Newman’s and watch the broadcast live.

**No. 5: Bountiful Harvest Dinner & Auction, St. Mary Catholic School, Paw Paw. Contact: 269-657-3750.**

**No. 10-13: Cursillo Weekend for Catholic Women, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo. Weekend begins 7 p.m. Thursday and concludes by 7 p.m. Sunday.**
Contact: Sharon Matkin, smatkin@gmail.com.

---

**Every person is a masterpiece of God’s creation**

By Joyce Bede

Imagine yourself pausing in front of a design of great beauty. Your soul quiets and is filled with awe and wonder.

If art, created by man, can evoke such a response within us, how much more is the same wonder, reverence and respect due to each person we encounter, who was handcrafted by the very God who spoke the world into being?

Now think of an artist stepping back from a great work of art and admiring his or her creation. When God created each of us, He did so with precision and purpose, loving and admiring his or her creation. From the beginning of time, God created both spiritual and material creatures. Only one, humankind, is a spiritual-material creature. God combines spirit and matter to form each one of us, a unique, singular being. Every person is an undiscovered mystery who will live, body and soul reunited, forever sharing in God’s own life. We are a reflection of God who is Unfathomable Spirit, able to make choices, to reason, and to give and receive love. We are so precious that God the Son, Jesus the Christ, offered His life, dying on the cross, taking the punishment that we deserve, so that each one of us could be united with God, forgiven and restored. Our value as persons then does not depend on physical characteristics or intellectual abilities and achievements, but on the fact that we are made in the image of God. Those whom we may consider “disabled” are in fact “differently-abled” with unique gifts that bring them to those around them.

Many saints who had some “disability” contributed greatly in helping others grow in holiness. Bl. Margaret of Castello, (1287-1320,) born blind, lame and hunchbacked. Many saints who had some “disability” contributed greatly in helping others grow in holiness. Bl. Margaret of Castello, (1287-1320,) born blind, lame and hunchbacked. Abandoned by her family, Margaret lived among the poor. She was known for her cheerfulness, convinced that God loves each person infinitely. More than 200 miracles are attributed to her intercession. Her incorrupt body, more than 670 years after death, lies under the high altar of the Church of St. Domenico at Citta-di-Castello, Italy.

Our Lord invites each of us to behold ourselves and one another with wonder and awe. No matter how the world might view us or others, let us treat each person as the masterpiece that he or she is. Joyce Bede M.A. member Kalamazoo Diocesan Commission for Ministry to Persons with Disabilities. Visit www.usccb.org/respectlife for more resources.

---

**Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish**
The Diocese of Kalamazoo in collaboration with the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish. If you know someone who has suffered any type of trauma (physical, sexual, neglect, etc.) either in the past or present, please refer them for help to Lissette Mira-Amaya 269-902-7084 or Fanny Tabares 269-903-0200.

It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lissette.

**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 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.

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

Confirmed with Bishop Bradley


Oct. 10: Holy Family Radio Pledge Drive comes to Kalamazoo.


Oct. 14-15: You have ever wondered what a live radio pledge drive looks like? Now’s your chance to find out! Holy Family Radio’s fall pledge drive will be Oct. 11-14, Tuesday, Oct. 11 and Thursday, Oct. 13 will be broadcast live from Newman’s Bookshoppe in downtown Kalamazoo.

Holy Family Radio is proud to announce the Fall Pledge Drive live right from the studio in Newman’s Bookshoppe in Kalamazoo, and would like to encourage people to come and see “YOUR local Catholic radio station in action,” said Robert Mulderink, General Manager of Holy Family Radio. Newman’s Bookshoppe and Holy Family Radio are both Catholic resources for the Diocese of Kalamazoo and are a natural partnership, says Steve Goffney, Director of Newman’s Bookshoppe. During the pledge drive broadcasts, all are welcome to visit Newman’s and watch the broadcast live.


Nov. 3: Find Yourself at Hackett Catholic Prep open house, 6-8 p.m., Hackett Catholic Prep.

NOV. 5: Bountiful Harvest Dinner & Auction, St. Mary Catholic School, Paw Paw. Contact: 269-657-3750.

Nov. 10-13: Cursillo Weekend for Catholic Women, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo. Weekend begins 7 p.m. Thursday and concludes by 7 p.m. Sunday. Contact: Sharon Matkin, smatkin@gmail.com.

---

**The Radical Unity of the Universe**

Sat., Nov. 5: 9 am - 12 pm
Marcella Clancy, CSJ

We are a part of the creative energy of the universe and both our sufferings and our joys are a part of the radical unity of creation. God’s love is hidden in all of us, and our unity.

We will see how we can contribute to this sense of oneness, both in our own souls and in the whole of the cosmos. Together we will come to find the unity for which all creation is destined.

More Info & register at TransformationsCenter.org
269-382-6290 x327
Battle Creek Area Catholic School Mass
Bishop Bradley celebrated the annual Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools Mass on September 1st. Students from St. Joseph Elementary and Middle Schools along with St. Philip Catholic Central attended the Mass held at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Blue Mass
Sunday, Sept. 11, Bishop Bradley celebrated the annual Blue Mass at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Portage, honoring all local first responders, public safety officials, EMT staff and military personnel. So many parishioners from around the diocese came to show their support overflow seating was needed.

Lake Michigan Catholic students learn about angels
Fr. Tom McNally, spiritual director and chaplain for Lake Michigan Catholic Schools, visited the 4th Grade to explain angels, pure spirits created by God who help us in big ways and small, and who see God’s will and act upon it. Fr. Tom and the 4th Graders contemplated this big idea, and the many ways angels have brought God’s goodness into their lives.

Priest Corps at St. Monica
At St. Monica Catholic School, Mr. Wilson’s Priest Corps meets every day during “Drop Everything and Read” to read their bibles and pray together.

Year of Mercy opportunities at the Cathedral
St. Augustine Cathedral Parish is expanding its opportunities for Year of Mercy pilgrims. For information on visiting the Holy Door for pilgrimage visits please call the Cathedral Parish at 269-345-5147. Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. for information about hours.

Expanded confession times are now in effect through Sunday, November 20, 2016: Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; and Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Msgr. Michael Osborn, rector of the Cathedral, has been appointed by Pope Francis as a Minister of Mercy with designated special faculties.

County Fairs
Thank you to all the many volunteers who spent time evangelizing at our Diocese of Kalamazoo booths at the Branch, Kalamazoo, Allegan and St. Joseph County Fairs this summer, continuing the Church’s mission to spread the Good News. Pictured below: the Haruza family spent time as booth volunteers at the St. Joseph County Fair. Rachael Haruza (center) teaches preschool at Immaculate Conception School in Three Rivers.

Rev. Antony Rajesh, MSFS, pastor of Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers; St. Clare, Centreville and St. Barbara Colon Parishes, celebrated Mass at the St. Joseph County Fair on Sept. 18.