Hundreds attend diocesan meetings to learn more about the Pastoral Plan

Priest assignments will become effective July 1, 2016

“The challenge of the Diocese is really one of priest distribution,” said Bishop Bradley to a packed house last month during the Southwest Deanery meeting in Holy Angels, Sturgis, one of eight deanery meetings held over six weeks to discuss the implementation of a new Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

On January 28th Bishop Bradley met with all priests in the diocese and announced the final configurations of the “parish collaboratives.” He then hosted a series of deanery meetings across the diocese to further detail the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to parishioners. The remaining one is scheduled for March 15, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Parish, Marshall.

The plan calls for the creation of 29 “Parish Collaboratives” from the existing 59 parishes [see page 5-8 for more details]. Each collaborative will be under the care of one pastor. As such 29 priests will be given pastor assignments and the remaining 25 priests will be assigned as Parochial Vicars or to other special ministries. Assignments will be announced by Bishop Bradley in May. Priests with new assignments will transition July 1st, 2016.

Parishioners attending the different meetings listened attentively as Msgr. Michael Osborn, General Secretary, presented detailed Diocesan data supporting the need for the plan as well as what the hopeful outcomes are.

“The plan is really ‘vocation-hopeful,’” noted Msgr. Osborn who is also the Director of the Office of Vocations and has plans to roll-out a comprehensive vocations program. However, he notes, the best way to encourage vocations is through prayer.

Parishes throughout the Diocese have generally maintained the same Mass schedule over the past 20 years, noted Msgr. Osborn, but with 33 percent fewer priests. Managing a “workable” weekend Mass schedule is one of the goals of the new plan.

During the month of March parishes are being asked to bring together a select group of parishioners and help decide on the best Mass schedule for their parish collaborative. Diocesan staff along with Msgr. Osborn and Very Rev. Robert Creagan will help to facilitate the discussions.

To aid in the overall transition of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Bishop Bradley has enlisted the assistance of Catholic Leadership Institute, a national consulting group that has worked on similar efforts in the Archdiocese of Boston.

“No other Diocese, to my knowledge, has created a plan like this,” added Bishop Bradley who reiterated the need for the plan as well as what the hopeful outcomes are.

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The liturgy is also referred to for the candidates as the “Continuing Call to Conversion.” Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for already baptized Christians. In most cases, these individuals make a profession of faith but are not baptized again.

Bishop Bradley, citing this liturgy as one of his favorites, commended the catechumens and candidates for their choice and commitment to their faith.

“Choosing to do what is right and just in a world that wants to blur any/all lines of morality is a growing challenge for all of us,” he said.

“Being willing to live our faith with joy and let the Light of Christ shine out in our lives no matter what the consequences takes great courage and conviction for everyone.”
FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cesna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

I was engaging in small talk with a gift shop clerk while in Florida recently when she asked me, “Where are you from.” When I answered “Kalamazoo,” her co-worker piped in, without even looking up from her phone, and matter-of-factly said, “That’s where the shootings were.”

I’m not sure what rattled me more — the casualness of her comment or the new instant description linked to my hometown — replacing the more often-expressed comment of “oh there really is a Kalamazoo?”

I wanted to begin listing all the amazing examples of the outpouring of care and support in the community, to detail all the inspirational prayer services and how our Cathedral was brimming with people for the Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley. I also wanted to remind the woman laser-glued to her phone that six innocent people lost their lives and two other victims were fighting to hold on to theirs and there’s never anything casual about that.

My stunned politeness prevailed and I didn’t say a thing. I simply paid for my items, managed a thin smile and left.

I like to think the woman was distracted and not really as cavalier as she appeared about the mass shooting that devastated my beloved community. And in this Year of Mercy I need to give her that benefit of the doubt. But the encounter sifts through my brain as a cautionary tale. I hope I never become numb to anyone’s pain and suffering.

C.S. Lewis knew a thing or two about pain and loss. He wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” Are we listening?

And maybe this is what we’re called to do during our Lenten journey — turn up our listening — notice the pain and suffering around us and respond. In love.

In his homily for the Mass in honor of the victims of the tragic shooting, Bishop Bradley concluded with these beautiful words, “...we will be absolutely certain that this tragedy will not have the final word. The final Word is Jesus — and Jesus is the Victor — and those of us who follow Jesus share in that victory.”

My Lenten advice: Put down your phones and follow Him. Respond to the pain and suffering around you by being a broker of hope.

Pope Francis MARCH Intentions

Universal: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Evangelization: That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

Special edition of The Good News to mail in March

A special edition of The Good News will be mailed to registered households in March. The four-page edition will include details and illustrations on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Beginning January 28th Bishop Bradley has visited all six deaneries and hosted meetings to offer details on the plan which calls for the creation of 29 parish collaboratives (see related article on the cover). The plan will be implemented on July 1st.

For information visit www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-pastoral-plan

Cover story continued – Kalamazoo County shooting victims honored

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy Bishop Bradley issued a statement expressing profound sadness and also commending the courage of the first responders. He said, “We are shocked and saddened by the horrific acts of violence in our beloved Kalamazoo. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of the six innocent people whose lives in this world were so mercilessly ended. May they live forever with God in the life of the world to come. We also pray for the perpetrator; may God show him mercy and change his heart. We commend the courage and dedication of our first responders for their commitment to keeping our community safe. Finally we pray for an end to all forms of violence. May this Lenten season be a time for all of us to turn away from sin and be freed from the strong hold of evil’s influence so that we can live together in security and peace. May all those impacted by this senseless tragedy be comforted by the love of our united prayers.”

The names of the six victims, Mary Jo Nye, Dorothy Brown, Barbara Hawthorne, Mary Lou Nye, Tyler Smith, Richard Smith, were recited as the congregation prayed collectively. Bishop Bradley concluded his homily by assuring the faithful that the tragedy will not define the community.

“This tragedy will not have the final word,” he said. “The final Word is Jesus — and Jesus is the Victor — and those of us who follow Jesus share in that victory.”

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The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

Pardon. I hereby designate The Good News as the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, imprisonments, etc., issued under theasp of the Paper, shall be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Any opinions, features and notices that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Good News is an extension in the print media of the teaching authority of the Bishop.

PUBLISHED: monthly/34 issues per year
DISTRIBUTION: the first weekend of the month via parish bulletins

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

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The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
PUBLISHER

Victoria Cesna, 269-903-0163
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR & EDITOR

Terry L. Hageman, 269-903-0173
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, GRAPHICS & ADVERTISING

Fanny Johnson, B. Min.,
Director of Hispanic Ministry, 269-903-8209

Sarah DeMott, 269-903-8144

PUBLISHED: monthly/34 issues per year
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NOTICE: The APRIL edition will be distributed in all parishes APRIL 2 & 3.

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. M. Cora Thoman, CSJ, passed away in late January and Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. Cora was born Mary Katherine in Shelby County, Ind., on March 12, 1924, the daughter of John and Ida (Ruhlman) Thoman. She was the third of five children and throughout her life cared deeply for her siblings, Fredrick, Rosemary, Rita and Dolores as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mary Katherine was a member of St. Vincent’s Church in Shelby County, Ind., at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tipton on September 1, 1942. She received the name Sister Mary Cora at her reception on July 2, 1943. She pronounced first vows on July 2, 1945 and final vows on July 2, 1948.

Sister Cora attended St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Ind. She graduated with a B.S. from Fontbonne College in Saint Louis and with a M.S. in Secondary Education from St. Francis College in Fort Wayne, Ind. Most of her religious life was spent in education as teacher or principal. She taught at several elementary parochial schools in Indiana, as a G.E.D. instructor at the Kokomo Opportunities Industrial Center and as librarian at St. Paul Elementary and Bennett High School.
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

New Beginnings: in Faith and for our Diocese

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, it is my privilege to celebrate the Rite of Election at St. Augustine Cathedral. I get to witness the inspiring commitment of a large number of people who fill the Cathedral, joined by members of their family and all those who are prayerfully supporting them in their new adventure. Some of them are very young, and others are more seasoned, but all of them are excited as they prepare to enter into the Church. When I addressed them a few weeks ago, I affectionately called them the “Class of 2016”. But this is a special “class”; they are not adorned with the iconic cap and gown of academic graduates. They are the “class” of 143 people who are about to become new Catholics. Sixty-one of these 143 are Catechumens, who will receive all three sacraments of Initiation: baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist; 82 are Candidates, people already validly baptized in other Christian denominations who will be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil in just a few weeks. Each one with their own story, and each one on a journey to be united with the Body of Christ in a new way — a brand new beginning.

During the liturgy St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans was read which reminded all of us that it is through our baptism that we enter into a special, intimate relationship with Jesus; we enter into His death and resurrection, and we share in His victory over sin and death. In St. Paul’s words, baptism gives us a “spirit of adoption through which we cry ‘Abba, Father!’ We are children of God...and heirs with Christ.” In my homily, I built on those words, speaking about our identity as children of God united by our baptismal promises. The 61 Catechumens who will be baptized in just a couple weeks at the Easter Vigil will experience that new and life-changing relationship with God for the first time, and they will rejoice in being able to know God as Father, and to know that Our Father God sees them as His precious child — a vibrant part of the Body of Christ. The 82 Candidates who will be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil, will have their identity as a baptized person into Christ enriched and strengthened through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

My dear sisters and brothers, as we consider these 143 people who are choosing a new, spiritual identity, I think all of us should be renewed in our own faith journey that remains steady and constant, but ever new as well.

We, the faithful people of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Kalamazoo have a unique and special identity, which is a critically important dimension of how we live our faith. Just like the 143 men and women “Class of 2016”, our entire Diocese of Kalamazoo is also embarking on a new adventure. Established only 44 years ago on July 21, 1971, we are initiating “New Beginnings”, ready to mature and move into the next phase of our history as we build up the Kingdom of God. To guide us in this important adventure, we have developed the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope.

Over the last several weeks, I have hosted meetings in each of the six deaneries to explain what this Diocesan Pastoral Plan is, to try to answer any questions and reassure any concerns, and provide people with materials and information about the details of the plan. At the heart of this initiative is the commitment to provide the best pastoral and sacramental care for God’s people that we can in light of our current circumstances. We are initiating a plan for our own “new beginnings” — one that I believe will allow us to live our faith even more joyfully and vibrantly.

It is my fervent hope that by attending one of the deanery meetings, reading past articles in The Good News, conversing with your pastor or reading information on our diocesan website, you have become familiar with the rationale for and the details of the plan. Beginning July 1st, we will form 29 parish collaboratives, each of which will be led a Pastor for each of the parishes which make up that particular collaborative; each parish retains its wonderful and unique identity; parishes within the collaborative will work together in every way possible to form even stronger ties with neighboring parishes; no parish will close. Depending on the size of the collaborative, other priests may be assigned as parochial vicars or chaplains to assist the pastor in providing for the pastoral and sacramental care of the people. Lay people will be invited to exercise lay ministry in ways to help serve the needs of the parish collaborative. Everyone will be encouraged to participate in ways that will help us all to live out our own baptismal promises, to help build up the Body of Christ, and to help our Diocese to move forward in hope.

In addition to understanding the details of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, all of us need to take the time to make sure that we understand where we are on our own faith journey, and the vital relationships we share with each other as members of the Body of Christ in our Diocese. We are a part of the Church at many different levels. We are members of the domestic Church, our unique and loving family. We are members of our parish Church, where we live out our faith through the sacraments and in loving communion with other members. We are members of the universal Church, with Pope Francis as the Vicar of Christ on earth. And here, in southwest Michigan, we are also members of the Diocesan Church.

As the bishop of the diocese, I have been appointed and entrusted with the responsibility for the pastoral care and spiritual concern of all the people living within the territory that makes...
When did you first feel the call to become a priest? Was there an event or person who was heavily influential in your decision?

When I was young, the idea was planted after Mass at St. Monica’s one Sunday while I was praying in front of the statue of Mary, something my older sister and I did regularly. One Sunday I guess I just made the decision. I just figured from that time that I would be a priest and an astronaut, because I thought I could do both. I came back to the idea when I was in my 20’s. I was working as an artist at a videogame studio. I wanted a life that was genuinely meaningful, and I wasn’t finding it where I was in what I was doing. As I thought about it, it almost started to dominate all I could think about. “What if I gave my life to God?”

What is a typical day like at the seminary?

I tend to try to get up early and pray for an hour early in the morning, and then we pray Morning Prayer and have Mass. We’ll have classes and readings, evening prayer. On weekends, we may be free, or we might have some other formation, and we deacons have a weekend assignment. Within that schedule, we have time for exercise, fun, reading, homework, and we have time to hang out with our friends here at the seminary.

What would surprise people the most about being a seminarian?

We’re normal people. We have normal interests, and normal talents, and normal weaknesses. Guys here have been doctors, accountants, camp counselors, artists, businessmen, and bartenders. We play sports, read books, draw pictures, hang out with friends, and some even brew beer. We just try to make sure that everything centers on Jesus Christ.

What most draws you to become a priest?

What draws me most to become a priest is the vocation to reconcile people to God - to be a bridge between God and the brokenness that we all experience is possibly one of the most profound callings that I can imagine. I hope very much to be a good confessor and a good teacher.

Who is your favorite saint? Why?

St. Andrew is one of my favorite male saints because he is my patron saint. Every time he shows up in John’s Gospel, he is always introverted, which is what I hope to do.

What would your best advice be to a young man who thinks he may have a calling to the priesthood?

Don’t be afraid. Jesus said, “Peace be with you,” and “I have come to seek peace.” so I think you should pray about whether or not you are called to give peace to others through the priesthood.

Who has been the most influential priest in your life?

Fr. Consani — he’s the first priest I remember seeing and thinking, “I want what he has.”

What is the most interesting thing you have learned in seminary?

Everything began in the Garden of Eden, and was re-drawn the right way in the Garden of Gethsemane. We received our identities from God first in the Garden of Eden, and then that identity was damaged, and the damaged humanity was restored in Christ.

What is a beautiful fulfillment of that desire for communion.

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Visit: www.dioskoo.org
Download Prayer Card for Vocations
During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We are reminded of our special connection to the land where this great story unfolded. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. They face complex political, religious and military challenges which have resulted in war, unrest and instability. Many Christians are fleeing persecutions of ISIS and other Islamic extremists and require basic humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets and medical care.

The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection is taken up in every Catholic parish around the world at the Holy Father’s request. The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support signs of hope that can be seen despite the challenges cited above. The Holy Land encompasses Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Rhodes. Twenty-nine parishes provide a space to worship as well as Christian formation, youth and family programs, and pastoral care. Schools serve over 10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of fifty-four shrines connected to the life of Jesus and the prophets.

Like Simon of Cyrene, you can help Christians in the Holy Land carry the cross. A donation to the Holy Father’s annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability and express your solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land.

For more information about the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land and the work of the Franciscans, go to:


For information about the administration of this collection in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or irwin@diekoozoo.org.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children may say the darnest things, but when it comes to questions about faith they can make even the most learned parents and priests pause.

“These are tough,” Pope Francis said when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn’t.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children aged 6-13, and the pope’s answers will be published March 1 as the book “Dear Pope Francis.”

“What did God do before the world was made?” one child asked. “Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?” asked another.

In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about the pope personally, including what he wanted to be when he grew up.

To the question about what God was doing before creation, the heart of the pope’s answer is, “Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That’s what God was doing: God was loving.”

Questions about Jesus, war and peace and about heaven also are included, though Father Spadaro was keeping those exact questions and answers under wraps during a late January interview.

Some of the personal questions made Pope Francis laugh and the pope’s answers to those questions made Father Spadaro laugh, the Jesuit said. The pope admits in the book that when he was small he wanted to be a butcher because the butcher his grandmother bought meat from had an apron with a big pocket that seemed to be full of money.

The children’s questions are “simple, but not silly,” said Father Spadaro, who discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

Father Spadaro heads La Civita Cattolica, a Jesuit journal filled with articles on philosophy, theology, literary criticism and political theory. He has never worked with young children and said he was in awe of how the pope handled the questions — taking them seriously and responding to them honestly and clearly.

Some of the pope’s answers, he said, are “inspired.”

“This is important,” Father Spadaro said. “It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children.”

By Jane Knuth
My assignment is to write a series of columns about the Year of Mercy. Being an ordinary person from the pews, I am not confident that I know anything about this topic so I borrowed a book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, You Did It To Me: a Practical Guide to Mercy in Action. After reading it I know some definitions and I’m inspired to search for people who are actually doing mercy to see it in action.

Wrist deep in coleslaw, Jenn, Phylis, Brenda, and Barb are mixing it with their gloved hands. Their goal is to package it in individual portions for distribution by a different church group to hungry people in the neighborhood. But first the cabbage has to be blended with the carrots. For an hour they and their fellow volunteers, Joe, Luanne, Tootie, Paul and Jerry have been re-packaging bulk food of all kinds; meat, potatoes, soup, fruit, and condiments and are half finished. Their conversation is light with good humor and the work is bringing them joy.

I ask them this question. “Would you call this work ‘mercy’?”

Joe ponders, “How can we have mercy for someone we don’t even know?”

Jenn says, “You can pray for them.”

Joe thinks about that for a moment and replies, “Okay, Praying is asking God to have mercy on someone. But what we’re doing here is a different thing. One is asking God to have mercy and the other is doing something about the problem.”

Phylis says, “I see this work as compassion.”

Tootie agrees, “Mercy seems more like forgiveness.”

Phylis looks thoughtful. “But when you bring forgiveness into it, then a type of judgment sneaks in, too.”

Brenda sympathizes with the difficulties of imprecise language. “Is there a difference between mercy and compassion?”

I tell her that, according to Fr. Gaitley, mercy is defined as love when it encounters suffering.

“So praying for people who are suffering is mercy,” Jenn nods. “I think so,” says Brenda. “And when we pray for the people we are helping it changes everything because prayer changes us. Mercy comes back to us through the time spent praying.” She recites the Magnificat when Mary says, “The Mighty One has done great things for me…His mercy is from age to age.” “Even Mary received mercy and she didn’t need forgiveness for anything.”

Jenn looks at the peanut butter stuck to her gloves and the blotches of soup on her apron. “So maybe packing food is mercy because we are loving people who are hungry? Even if we never meet them. Even when there’s nothing to forgive.

Meeting mercy in action overpowers reading about it. I suddenly want to hug all these people in their messy aprons and sticky gloves.

To the Other Six Days
By Jane Knuth

Save the Date for “The Story of St. Paulina — Showing Mercy to the Poor”

An overnight retreat for adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities, April 23-24, 9:30 a.m. Saturday through 1 p.m. Sunday at Camp Friedenswald

Lakeview Lodge. Cost is $35, scholarships are available. Registration deadline is April 11. Contact: Lisa Irwin, 269-903-0177, lirwin@diokzoo.org
El Papa Francisco estuvo en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.

Este 16 de febrero, el Papa Francisco estuvo en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, y allí frente al Rio Bravo, oró por los migrantes que han sufrido cruzando la frontera.

A continuación parte de su homilía referente a los migrantes pronunciada en la Santa Misa en la ciudad fronteriza de Juárez:

“La gloria de Dios es en la vida del hombre. El Señor San Ireneo en el siglo II, expresión que sigue resonando en el corazón de la Iglesia. La gloria del Padre es la vida de sus hijos. No hay gloria más grande para un padre que ver la realización de los suyos; no hay satisfacción mayor que ver a sus hijos crecer, verlos crecer y desafiar la lluvia. “...En este Año de la Misericordia, y en este lugar, quiero con ustedes implorar la misericordia divina, quiero pedir con ustedes el don de las lágrimas, el don de la conversión. Aquí en Ciudad Juárez, como en otras zonas fronterizas, se concentran miles de migrantes de Centroamérica y otros países, sin olvidar tantos mexicanos que también buscan pasar «al otro lado». Un paso, un camino cargado de terribles injusticias: esclavizados, secuestrados, extorsionados, muchos hermanos nuestros somos fruto del hecho de tráfico humano, de la trata de personas. No podemos negar la crisis humanitaria que en los últimos años ha significado la migración de miles de personas, ya sea por tren, por carretera e incluso a pie, atravesando kilómetros de montañas, desertos, caminos inhóspitos.

Esta tragedia humana que representa la migración de miles de personas cada día en el mundo. Esta crisis, que se produce en casi todos los continentes, nos invita a compartir nuestras experiencias y a construir un mundo nuevo, un mundo mejor, que sea justo, inclusivo y digno para todos. El Papa Francisco nos invita a que sean nuestros hermanos que salen expulsados por la pobreza y la violencia, por el narcotráfico y el crimen organizado y que buscan sus vidas en los refugios de los migrantes.

En este Año de la Misericordia, es importante recordar que la misericordia es un valor que nos hace ser hijos de la Iglesia, que nos hace ser parte de la comunidad de los cristianos. La misericordia es un valor que nos hace ser parte de la comunidad de los cristianos. La misericordia es un valor que nos hace ser parte de la comunidad de los cristianos. La misericordia es un valor que nos hace ser parte de la comunidad de los cristianos.

La Diócesis, ya ha trabajado con cuatro grupos en español y los participantes han expresado que se han beneficiado bastante de este programa. El programa consta de dos sesiones personales con la consejera una al comienzo y otra al final y las dos sesiones tienen lugar a nivel local.

Por inspiración Divinodyssey Center, 3427 Gulf Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Costo de la conferencia es $8 por persona antes del 25 de marzo del 2016. $10 por persona si se registra después del 25 de marzo. Para más información o para registrarse llame al (269) 903-0197 o por email mtrmurr@diokzoo.org.

**Best Practices for Shared Parishes Diocesan Conference**

On April 20, 2016 from 9:00am to 3:00pm, a diocesan conference regarding Best Practices for Shared Parishes will take place. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, USCCB Assistant Director, Hispanic Affairs Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the Rev. Stephen Dudek, D.Min. from the Diocese of Grand Rapids will present during the conference. The purpose of the conference is: To assist pastors and their team in achieving a high level of ecclesial integration among their culturally diverse members. It is designed as a practical tool to (a) assess challenging ministerial situations in light of Catholic pastoral principles and values, (b) identify pastoral responses to address ministerial situations based on the principles of pastoral and includes, knowledge, skills, and (c) discern pastoring planning strategies based on a developmental process of ecclesial integration/inclusion and intercultural sensitivity, which lead to a higher level of stewardship.

Pastors, parish staff, diocesan staff, teachers, and anyone who is or will be in a decision making position are invited to this conference. The conference will take place at Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gulf Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The cost is $8 per person before March 25, 2016, $10 per person if you register after March 25th. For more information or to register, you can call (269) 903-0197 or email mtrmurr@diokzoo.org.

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**Madre Blanca Ivía Álvarez Rincón, fundadora de la Congregación Misionera de la Sierra del Divino Espíritu**

El pasado 11 de febrero murió la Fundadora de las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu quienes han ayudado por varios años a la Diócesis de Kalamazoo en el ministerio con los campesinos migrantes y en los últimos años han establecido una casa en la parroquia de San Felipe de Jesús, Pearl con cuatro de sus religiosas. El Obispo Paul Bradley compartió con ella su celo misionero cuando visitó la casa madre de las Hermandas en Colombia. La Madre Blanca Ivía Álvarez Rincón nació el 11 de febrero de 1930 en Armenia, Colombia, en un hogar de profundas raíces cristianas. Obtuvo su Doctorado en Filosofía y Letras en la Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana de Medellín en 1960 y se especializó en Psicopedagogía Correccional, en el Instituto Fray Luis Amigó de Medellín. Ingresó a la Congregación de las Hermanas Terce- rianas Capuchinas de la Sagrada Familia en julio del año 1951 y en esta Congregación fue Maestra de Novicias durante los años 1964-1968.

*Madre Blanca Ivía Álvarez Rincón fundó la Comunidad de las Her- manas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espiritu.*

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**Programa de Recuperación de Traumas en España**

La Diócesis, ya ha trabajado con cuatro grupos en español y los participantes han expresado que se han beneficiado bastante de este programa. El programa consta de dos sesiones personales con la consejera una al comienzo y otra al final y las dos sesiones tienen lugar a nivel local.

Si usted conoce a alguna persona que en su infancia o de adulto sufrió cualquier tipo de trauma (físico, sexual, negligencia, etc.) y quiere que se le haga un seguimiento, está invitado a que llame a la consejera Lissette Mira-Ayama (296) 929-7084 o Fanny Tabares (296) 903-0219. Es indispensable hacer cita personal lo más pronto posible con la consejera Lissette Mira-Ayama, antes de ser admitido al programa.

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**La Diócesis de Kalamazoo ha comenzado el Programa de “Trauma Recovery” en inglés desde hace 13 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 necesita.
Bishop Bradley’s Stations of the Cross schedule
March 18 – St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan, 6 p.m.
March 25 – St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.
St. Augustine Cathedral Holy Week Schedule
March 20 – Palm Sunday Mass, 11:30 a.m.
March 22 – Chrism Mass and Reception, 6 p.m.
March 24 – Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7 p.m.
March 25 – 7 Last Supper, noon
Stations of the Cross, 1 p.m.
Lord’s Passion, 1:30 p.m.
March 26 – Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 p.m.
March 27 – Easter Mass, 11:30 a.m.

Lenten Activities
CENTRAL DEANERY
Our Lady of the Snows Retreat Center, 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo, Stations of the Cross, Fridays after 5:30 p.m.
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, Stations of the Cross, Fish Fry begins at 5:30 p.m.

EASTERN DEANERY
March 16 – Very Rev. John Flackenstein’s final Midweek Faith Lifeline, St. Philip Parish Center, 6 p.m.
March 22 – Lenten Luncheon, St. Jerome Parish Hall, Mass begins at 10:45 a.m., speaker begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch follows. No charge, free will offering appreciated.

LAKE SHORES DEANERY
St. Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, Confessions 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Monday during Lent;
Adoration 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
St. John Parish, Benton Harbor, Confessions 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. every Friday during Lent;
Adoration 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, Confession and Adoration 5-6 p.m. every Sunday during Lent
St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass
St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo, Stations of the Cross, Fridays after 5:30 p.m. Mass
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman, Stations of the Cross, Fish Fry begins at 5:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST DEANERY
March 15 – Penance Service, St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg, 7 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 a.m.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY
Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 a.m.
March 18 – Recenement of the Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, 7 p.m. Put on by Faith Formation students.

Activities around the diocese
CENTRAL DEANERY
Kalamazoo
Sundays – Adult Bible Study, St. Joseph Parish, 10 a.m. Join an adult Bible Study while your children attend formation classes. All are welcome to attend as your schedule permits. Currently studying Luke.

Lentern March 17 – Bishop’s Scout Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m.
Last day to submit award requests is March 22.
Contact: Tim McNamara, tmcmara@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0139.

Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish
The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues 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 to Shroud of Turin or to a local help. Cost is $175. Additional 2016 dates: July 16-17, Sept. 24-25, Nov. 12-13. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199, struchan@diko zoo.org.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number
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 help to Lisette Mira-Amaya 269-929-7084 or Fanny Tabares 269-903-0209.

A Woman’s 12 Step Retreat
April 1 – 3
Karen Anne Jackson, CSC
This weekend retreat will examine the reality of need for being well as we travel through the 12 steps.

A Mystic’s Invitation to Love the World: A Taste of Teilhard de Chardin
Sat, April 9 9am-3:30pm
Led by Judy Cauley, CSJ
Teilhard’s world view of ever-evolving, spirit-filled creation gave us the first rendering of the sacred story of the universe. Reflecting on Teilhard’s story and spiritual legacy can help us to see how Mystery is working in our lives.
Lake Michigan Catholic’s fourth through seventh grade students participated in the King Arthur Flour Bake for Good: Kids Learn Bake Share Program, and they learned that math, science, reading, and baking know-how equals great bread to bake and share. Each student went home with two bags of King Arthur flour, a Bake for Good: Kids recipe booklet, Red Star yeast, a KAF dough scraper, a bread donation bag, and bread baking skills. One loaf was donated to Lighthouse Ministries in Benton Harbor and the students kept the other loaf. More than 100 loaves of bread were delivered last month to the Lighthouse Ministries where it was distributed to their children and families.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Union City and donations from other generous people in the community, a new nativity set was purchased and displayed this past Advent season. The project was spearheaded by Marion Heator and Rosie Shaffer and was overseen by Our Lady of Fatima’s Altar & Rosary Society. The manger was expertly handmade from old barn siding by parishioners Jacque Helwig and Fred Woods.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Three Rivers recently announced plans to expand their class offerings to include 5th grade. The school’s elementary offerings will include two multi-age learning environments; a lower elementary classroom for kindergarten through second grade and an upper elementary classroom for third through fifth grade. The school also hopes to add a Young Five program contingent on enrollment numbers. The program would be only the second Young Five program available in Three Rivers.

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Borgess Pep Health Hospital Emergency Room
411 Naomie St., Plainwell
Borgess Lee Memorial Hospital Emergency Room
420 West High Street, Dowagiac
Immediate Medical Care at Borgess at Woodbridge Hills
7901 Angling Road, Portage

*This service is only available for patients who do not have a life-threatening emergency. In a life-threatening emergency, always call 9-1-1 or use your nearest emergency room.