Pastors begin new assignments across the Diocese

By Vicki Cessna

For Rev. Richard Altine the relocation to his new home at the Sacred Heart rectory in Silver Creek marks his eighth move during the more than 20 years he’s been a priest for the Diocese. He’s undaunted by the process as he makes it a community event.

Parishioners at his former parish in Buchanan (St. Anthony’s) were set to pack him up while parishioners at his new Parish we’re on-hand to unload.

July 1st marked the official beginning of new assignments for forty-one priests in the Diocese and a new structure of Parish Collaboratives for everyone. Bishop Bradley created 28 Parish Collaboratives, which were announced this past January, and priests were given their assignments on May 19th.

Instrumental in the transition are a host of parish employees, lay leaders and volunteers. Parish Transition teams, which were formed in the spring, have been meeting to work through some logistics from cross-promotion of Parish events to brainstorming about combined religious education programs.

At Fr. Altine’s Parish Collaborative consisting of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, Holy Family Parish, Decatur and Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek, the mood was congenial and friendly as he lead his first Parish Transition team meeting with the new Collaborative.

The three Parishes have already begun plans for a combined parish picnic and will co-host an event with musician and catechist Julie Carrick in August [see page 11 for more details.]

Meanwhile in Edwardsburg, Rev. Joe McCormick, Pastor, Our Lady of the Lake, notes that his collaborative has had a bit of a head start on the process. The Edwardsburg Parish has been working with nearby St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis, since the retirement of Pastor Emeritus Don Potts last September.

Fr. McCormick, who was also appointed Pastor of St. Ann Parish, is looking forward to engaging with the Cassopolis Parish more often planning on celebrating Mass there twice a month.

For some priests the new assignments also bring a change in living environments. Rev. John Fleckenstein, newly appointed Pastor of the St. Ann Parish, Gull Lake (Augusta), St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Lacey, will be moving from living in a city atmosphere in downtown Battle Creek to more of a rural setting.

“It’s always exciting to start again with a new Parish, but it’s hard to leave,” noted Fr. Fleckenstein in an interview with the Battle Creek Enquirer. “I’m going to go from a downtown setting to a more rural setting. It’s been a great experience, but in the long run, if you add up all of those things, I have been here 12 years, which is sort of a mixed blessing.

“You’ve been here a long time and perhaps it is time to move to something different. On the other hand, you know, it’s hard to leave what you’re used to and have gotten used to over time.

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Catholic community unites after cyclist tragedy

On June 7th nine bicyclists took to the streets of Kalamazoo for a summer evening bike ride. Only four would survive the evening after a man drove his truck into the group of cyclists known as “The Chain Gang.”

As news of the tragedy spread, family members were summoned to the scene and immediately called upon their faith community for support. Sr. Pam Owens, pastoral associate at St. Thomas More Student Parish, stayed with Marian Nelson and Barbara Paulik throughout the evening as they awaited word on their husbands and long-time friends, Tony Nelson and Larry Paulik. Rev. James Adams and Deacon Mike Carl, came to support Tom Bradley, husband of Debbie Bradley, parishioner of St. Ann Parish, Augusta.

As the families dealt with the shocking news of the death of their loved ones, the community rallied to offer its support for them and for all the victims of the horrific tragedy.

“Our beloved community of Kalamazoo has once again suffered a devastating and shocking loss, and more than ever we are called to draw upon the strength and goodwill of everyone in this caring, vibrant community,” said Bishop Bradley in a statement issued following the tragedy, just four months after a man shot and killed six members of the community.

“Amidst this tragedy,” he continued. “we ask for God’s grace to help us remain strong and to be united in our prayers and support for all as we grieve with one another.” Within days prayer services and vigils were held; a memorial to the cyclists was erected at the tragic site.

“We must come together, unite and pray,” said Rev. Kenneth Schmidt at a Community Prayer Service held just days after the tragedy and attended by more than 500 people.

The tributes to the three members of the Catholic community, Tony, Larry and Debbie, immediately conveyed the positive impact that each one had on countless lives. Tony was instrumental in leading the renovation of the St. Thomas More church building; Larry was widely known for his dedication to social justice issues; Debbie, a nurse and health advocate, was heralded as a devoted wife, mother and friend.

Tony and Larry,” said Fr. Schmidt at the joint funeral Mass held for the two friends. “They were not merely hearers of the word, they were doers! This is no faint praise; it’s a profound compliment, as when we say that he’s a ‘man of his word.’ In every way, Larry & Tony were ‘men of their word,’ and their word was Jesus.”
FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna

Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

At first it was just a low murmur—an indistinct sound of voices punctuating the summer air as I took an evening walk along the campus of Notre Dame last July. Then as I got closer to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes the voices became more distinct and ever familiar as those praying the rosary. Such an inviting presence beckoning me in the midst of a relaxed summer night, a God wink for sure.

I had the privilege of spending a week on campus last summer during a leadership conference and stumbling upon those in prayer at Grotto was a beautiful gift, a simple serene moment.

And that’s just one of the many reasons I love summer—the relaxed schedule, the longer days, the brilliant Michigan sunsets and the gift of a season where we can’t help but revel in God’s artistry from the blinking fireflies to the musical crickets to the quiet flickering of candles in a Grotto.

The seasons of Lent and Advent call us in a specific way to prayer but don’t easily dismiss this season of “Ordinary Time”—where the green vestment colors match the outdoors and the time is just as ripe to adopt a new prayer practice.

Last summer Pope Francis spoke of the importance of finding time for prayer during one of his General Audiences. “The spirit of prayer gives time back to God,” he said, “it steps away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time, it rediscovers the peace of necessary things, and discovers the joy of unexpected gifts.”

He further explained, “Prayer flows from listening to Jesus, from reading the Gospel. Do not forget to read a passage of the Gospel every day. Prayer flows from closeness with the Word of God.”

Each morning I have the Gospel readings emailed to me from USCCB [sign up at www.usccb.org]. Before my feet hit the floor, before I see the latest cute dog video trending on Facebook, I read the daily readings. I don’t have a perfect record but on those days where I do slow down and take the time I’m amazed at the wisdom I can derive from those few quiet moments in the morning immersed in the Word.

This summer treat yourself to quiet reflection and experience the “joy of unexpected gifts.”}

Pope Francis JULY / AUGUST Intentions

JULY

Universal: Indigenous Peoples

That indigenous Peoples, those identity and very existence are threatened, will be shown due respect. Evangelization: Latin America and the Caribbean

That the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of her mission to the continent, may announce the Gospel with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

AUGUST

Universal: Sports

That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world.

Evangelization: Living the Gospel

That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to truth, honesty, and love of neighbor.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

PPublished weekly by The Good News in the interest 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. Opinions, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Very Rev. Richard Altime, V.F. – Dean of the Southern Deanery, Pastor of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiak; Holy Family Parish, Decatur and Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek Collaborative.


Very Rev. James Richardson, V.F. – Dean of the Central Deanery, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo.


THE SEPTEMBER edition will be distributed in all parishes SEPTEMBER 2 & 3.

NOTICE:

The first weekend of the month via parish bulletins.

Email: vcessna@diokzoo.org.

DEADLINES:

By Victoria Cessna

From the Editor

July 17 – August 15

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The Good News is an extension of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in an orthodoxy, authentic and balanced form. Its mission and goals proceed from this fundamental reality.

The mission of The Good News, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to develop as healthy disciples of Jesus Christ, and to become an effective medium of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in an orthodoxy, authentic and balanced form. Its mission and goals proceed from this fundamental reality.

Please note that Bishop Paul J. Bradley has made the following announcements:

DEANS/VICARS FORANE (V.F.)

Bishop Bradley has announced a revised deanery structure effective July 1, 2016 (see page 6 for more details) for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, and appointed five deans. Priests appointed Deans received the title of “Very Reverend” and the initials V.F. will be added after their name, indicating Vicar Forane, the canonical title for Dean. (listed in alphabetical order):

Very Rev. Richard Altime, V.F. – Dean of the Southern Deanery, Pastor of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiak; Holy Family Parish, Decatur and Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek Collaborative.


Very Rev. James Richardson, V.F. – Dean of the Central Deanery, Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo.


COLLABORATIVE

The St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan/St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs/Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman Collaborative will be phased into effect over time.

PARISH COLLABORATIVES

Rev. Arthur Howard is appointed Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman, and Rev. Leo Cartegena is appointed Administrator of St. Anthony, Buchanan and St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs.

Very Rev. Richard Altime is appointed Spiritual Moderator/Chaplain of St. Anthony/St. Gabriel.

Bishop Bradley approves appointments to Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

The following appointment were announced last month for the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools:

Vicky Groat has been named as principal of St. Philip Catholic Central High School, following her interim appointment which began in December 2014 after the sudden death of high school principal, Mr. Tim May in November 2014.

Groat continues to serve as Director of Athletics, a position she has held since 2008, as well as Varsity Volleyball Coach. From 2006-2008 she was director of Student Services for the school until her promotion as Assistant Principal from 2009-2012. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and an associate of arts degree from Kellogg Community College. She is also pursuing a degree in educational leadership.

Sara Myers has been appointed principal of St. Joseph Preschool, Elementary and Middle School. Myers has served as principal of St. Joseph Preschool and Elementary School since 2014.

Marcy Arson has announced her retirement as principal of St. Joseph Middle School effective July 1, 2016. Mrs. Arson served as Middle School Principal from 2001 to 2011 and 2013 to 2016.

“IT is with pleasure and confidence that I approve the selection of Mrs. Vicky Groat and Mrs. Sarah Myers as Principals of St. Philip High School and St. Philip Middle and Grade Schools respectively,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. “The strong leadership they both have already demonstrated is so valuable to our Catholic Schools, and under their leadership, I am confident that the Catholic Schools in Battle Creek will continue to remain strong. I also take this occasion to thank Mrs. Marcy Arson for her many years of dedicated service and for the lasting impact she has made on the St. Joseph Middle School, and wish her well in her retirement.”

THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

“Being Jesus Strong!”

The “dog days of summer” are upon us. I hope you are able to be enjoying spontaneous trips to the beautiful Michigan lakes or to the neighborhood backyard pools or other ways of celebrating these days of a more relaxed daily schedule. How appropriate that these summer months occur during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time which also calls us to a less festive but equally prayerful celebration of our faith.

Recently, however, our relaxing days of Ordinary Time have been violated by “extraordinary” events of sadness and tragedy. On June 7, a beautiful early summer evening, nine bicyclists were just beginning a relaxing summer ride on the outskirts of Kalamazoo to enjoy the windy hills and the lush country landscape. Suddenly and with no warning, they were struck from behind by a pickup truck, claiming the lives of five of them and seriously injuring the other four (who to this writing are all still recovering in various hospitals).

Of the five who were killed, three of them were beloved members of our Catholic family of faith, two from St. Thomas More Parish and one from St. Ann Parish, Gull Lake. Just a few days later on June 12th, while our local community was still dealing with our own shock and grief, the nation was stunned with the news of one of the worst mass shootings and terrorist attacks since “9/11” as 49 people were mercilessly and violently murdered in an Orlando night club.

Nothing “ordinary” about these tragic events and how ironic to encounter such “darkness” in the midst of these sunny days.

Of course it was also less than four months ago, during the darker days of mid-winter on February 20 when we experienced another inexplicable act of violence and darkness when six innocent people were randomly murdered, and two others were seriously injured, their lives forever changed as they continue trying to recover.

In the face of these kinds of senseless acts of violence and tragic deaths, we can’t help but ask “Why?” Even as we ask that very normal human question, we already know there is no good answer to it. How grateful those of us who are people of faith are in the face of these awful human events because even though there is still no good answer to the obvious question of “Why do these kinds of things happen in our world?” or “Why do innocent people have to suffer?” or “Why do bad things happen to good people?”, we can find comfort when we come together in faith and place all our unanswered questions into the Hands of our Loving God Who always points us to Jesus for the final Word.

It was so inspiring to see the memorial services and peace gatherings and celebrations of life and the funeral services marked by hope that were celebrated both in the face of the Kalamazoo shootings in February, the bicyclists’ tragedy in June, as well as the Orlando shootings. During these days communities drew together in prayer; parishes and local congregations supported one another in faith; people rallied together to offer support and strength. “Kalamazoo Strong!” “Orlando Strong!” And we quickly begin to realize that people are strong in the face of tragedy, evil and darkness; they/we stand up against it. We hear it over and over again: we will not allow hate to overcome love; we will not allow anger and a sense of revenge to overcome the power of mercy and forgiveness.

As we all know, we are in the midst of the Jubilee Year of Mercy which Pope Francis has called the entire Church and world to observe beginning last December until the end of this coming November. In the beautiful document he wrote to launch the Year of Mercy entitled “The Face of Mercy,” Pope Francis wrote: “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers: nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy.” (#10). He continued on in that same document giving this valuable insight:

“Wherever the Church is present, mercy must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.” (#12)

I imagine that all of us find those words of our Holy Father inspiring, and that none of us would disagree with them. However, when it comes to putting those words into practice in our daily lives — when it comes to being merciful to one who has truly hurt us — when it comes to forgiving someone who has taken from us what is most important to us — well, that oftentimes is much more difficult. On the other hand, when we witness “mercy in action”, there is nothing more inspiring!

For that reason, I share with you here a recent example of heroic mercy and forgiveness right here in the midst of the recent Bicyclists’ tragedy. What follows is an excerpt from an “open letter” written by Mark Paulik, the son of Larry Paulik, one of the five bicyclists who were killed, written to the man who took his father’s life and posted to Facebook:

“Words will never encompass the pain that has befallen me, my family, and friends over the last few months. Please do not underestimate the meaning, value and weight those three words represent. It is my belief that forgiveness is not a one way act. So in my extending this forgiveness to you — you also must in turn accept this forgiveness.

Also, please do not mistake that this decision is made with relative ease. It has not been easy. Please do not mistake that this decision is made with relative ease. It has not been easy. I forgive you.

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Nominations sought for Diocesan Commissions

Bishop Bradley has created five commissions for consultation and guidance on pastoral ministry for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Currently there are three active commissions:

- The Diocesan Worship Commission
- The Commission for Ministry to Persons with Disabilities
- The Commission for Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation

In April 2016 Bishop Bradley authorized the creation of two additional commissions: The Commission on New Evangelization and The Commission for Justice and Mercy.

Currently nominations are being accepted for all commissions. Volunteers meet regularly and work as consultative bodies on the specific areas of ministry.

Members of all Diocesan Commissions should exhibit:

- a life of love for Jesus Christ and faithfulness to the Church;
- a lifestyle that embraces Church teachings and expectations;
- a lifestyle that embraces Church teachings and expectations;
- a respect for the Bishop and the ability to assist and support his mission;
- the ability to focus on the greater needs of the whole diocese;
- the ability to work as a member of a team while adding to good group dynamics;
- the ability to grow and be open to transformation;
- good communication skills with the ability to listen and respect other perspectives;
- a desire to continue to grow in knowledge, to learn alongside others and assist others in learning.

If you are interested in any one of these Commissions or would like to nominate a member of the lay faithful, please visit the diocesan website. More information on each commission as well as a nomination form may be found at: www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-commissions.

For questions contact: Deacon Kurt Lucas; dlucas@diokzoo.org.
Beginning this September, clergy and lay faithful from around the Diocese will be able to study sacred scripture in a four-year course through the Catholic Bible School of Michigan (CBSM).

CBSM offers the most comprehensive Catholic scripture non-degree study course in Michigan. Every book in the Bible is studied, including the historical context and significance and a look at scripture through today’s lens.

According to founder, Dcn. Jack Gardner, CBSM has been in progress for several years. “CBSM began in the fall of 2009 but had been in the works for a few years before that,” he said. “When I was in diaconate formation and studying at the seminary, the idea was suggested to me by Dr. Peter Williamson. I felt something move in my spirit in a way that has only happened a few times in my life. I just knew it was something the Lord wanted to do.”

Time and funding, however, proved to be challenging, and after much prayer, Dcn. Jack decided to shelve his school idea until the Lord provided. When a friend called him up, telling him a story of how he heard the Lord tell him to give Dcn. Jack $50,000, it was clear this was truly what God wanted him to do and CBSM was born.

“Our goal is no less than to renew the church,” said Dcn. Jack. “When we bring faith to the scripture it is like a match that starts a holy blaze going. There is no one who can teach the Bible, or say the Bible, but everyone can come to scripture to see God’s will. When we bring faith to the scripture, it is like a match that starts a holy blaze going. There is no one who can teach the Bible, or say the Bible, but everyone can come to scripture to see God’s will. I just knew it was something the Lord wanted to do.”

After establishing programs in the greater Detroit-area, CBSM decided it was time to expand. They were met with a warm welcome when approaching the Diocese of Kalamazoo and Bishop Bradley.

“From the very beginning of the Church’s existence sacred scripture has been revered, cherished and proclaimed as one of God’s foremost gifts to His people,” wrote Bishop Bradley in his letter welcoming CBSM to the diocese. “So integral to the life of the Church is sacred scripture that the fourth-century biblical scholar St. Jerome advised one of his pupils, ‘Read assiduously and learn as much as you can. Let sleep find you holding your Bible and when your head nods let it be resting on the sacred page.’” (Letters, #22)

Currently there are approximately 500 students enrolled in CBSM and three classes have graduated since its founding. Classes have already been established in the Diocese of Lansing and the Archdiocese of Detroit. All CBSM instructors have a Masters in Theology or the equivalent, have a deep faith life and are able to teach God’s word effectively. Tuition is $580 and includes the class workbook. The course can also be taken for college credit for current students at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

CBSM will host information nights at the St. Monica Community Building on July 14 and Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. Representatives will also be on-hand to answer questions after weekend Masses at St. Ambrose Parish, Delton, July 16, 17; St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, July 30, 31 and St. Augustine Cathedral, Aug. 6, 7. Courses will be held at St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo and run Sept. 19, 2016 through May 7, 2017. Registration deadline is Sept. 4. For more information, visit cbsmich.org.

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

“The mercy is that there was no anger—overwhelming sadness, yes, but we both wanted what was best for the other. Our divorce was the first time that I completely turned my life over to God. I said to Him, ‘This is Yours because I can’t handle it.’ The mercy was also in my friends at church—they helped immensely. It was important to me to have a faith-based counselor and she was wonderful. My priest gave me the book, Praying Our Goodbyes, by Joyce Rupp. It helped a lot.”

“Do you have any advice for divorced people?” I ask Marcia.

“Yes,” she says. “Remember the best qualities of the other person. And remember your own best qualities, too.”

...remember, a small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order.” – Pope Francis

Marcia* and Ian* divorced after 30 years of marriage. They are part of “the laity” and they are not an unusual part. Divorce happens in our “Other Six Days” just like birth, death, failure, success, mourning, feast, famine, and happy marriages. Marcia helps me see God’s mercy in new ways.

“Time moved on, I knew it was the right decision, but I wouldn’t have done it. Neither of us was happy in the marriage. I was relieved in a way that my parents had passed on already, because Ian was very important to them. They depended on him. Ian took wonderful care of me even after he left. Two weeks into the separation there was a big snow storm and he was over first thing in the morning plowing out the drive way. Actually, we both still take care of each other in some ways. Ian lives out of state now, but when his cousin in Michigan was sick I was the one who spent the time at the hospital and kept Ian informed. When my nephew who lives near Ian had a mental break, Ian found a psychologist and went with him to his appointments.”

Marcia pauses to wipe away tears, so I ask her, “Where is God’s mercy in this?”

“The mercy is that there was no anger—overwhelming sadness, yes, but we both wanted what was best for the other. Our divorce was the first time that I completely turned my life over to God. I said to Him, ‘This is Yours because I can’t handle it.’ The mercy was also in my friends at church—they helped immensely. It was important to me to have a faith-based counselor and she was wonderful. My priest gave me the book, Praying Our Goodbyes, by Joyce Rupp. It helped a lot.”

“Do you have any advice for divorced people?” I ask Marcia.

“Yes,” she says. “Remember the best qualities of the other person. And remember your own best qualities, too.”

...remember, a small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order.” – Pope Francis

Marcia’s* names have been changed

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. (CN)vox

“Finding Dory” (Disney)

This dandy animated sequel to 2003’s “Finding Nemo” sets that film’s trio of main characters on another epic journey, this one undertaken to reunite the absent-minded blue-tongued title (voice of Ellen DeGeneres) with her long-loss parents (voices of Diane Keaton and Eugene Levy). Her eventful quest, on which she’s accompanied by the father (voice of Albert Brooks) and son (voice of Hayden Rolence) duo of clownfish she befriended in the first outing, takes her to a fictional California aquarium. There she gains the help of three more pals: a curmudgeonly octopus (voice of Ed O’Neill), a beluga whale with defective sonar skills (voice of Ty Burrell) and a nearsighted shark whale (voice of Kate Winslet). Working with co-director Angus MacLane, writer-director Andrew Stanton conveys life lessons about family loyalty, teamwork and the proper balance between courage and caution in a script full of gentle humor and appealing personalities. But his most impressive achievement is the use to which he puts the various disabilities on display, using them to send an implicit anti-bullying and pro-life message to youthful viewers.
Deaneries for the Diocese of Kalamazoo as of July 1, 2016

Central Deanery Dean: Very Rev. James Richardson, V.F.
Kalamazoo County
+ St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, Kalamazoo
+ St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo
+ St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo
+ St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo and + St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment
+ St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
+ St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage
+ St. Ann Parish, Augusta; + St. Ambrose Parish, Delton* and + Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey* [*Barry County]

Eastern Deanery Dean: Very Rev. Mark Vyverman, V.F.
Branch and Calhoun Counties
+ St. Joseph Parish, + St. Jerome Parish and + St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek
+ St. Mary Parish, Marshall and + St John the Evangelist Parish, Albion
+ St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater; + Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City and + St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Bronson

Northern Deanery Dean: Very Rev. Fabio Garzon, V.F.
Allegan and Barry Counties
+ St. Peter Parish, Douglas and + San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Fennville
+ St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Byron Center; + St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr and + Sacred Heart Parish, Watson
+ Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan and + St. Margaret Parish, Otsego
+ St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Wayland and + SS Cyril and Methodius Parish, Gun Lake
+ St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings and + St. Cyril Parish, Nashville

Southern Deanery Dean: Very Rev. Richard Altine, V.F.
Cass and St. Joseph Counties
+ Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac; + Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Silver Creek and + Holy Family Parish, Decatur* [*Van Buren County]
+ Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg and + St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis
+ St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg* and + St. Edward Parish, Mendon [*Kalamazoo County]
+ Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers; + St. Clare Parish, Centreville and + St. Barbara Parish, Colon
+ Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and + St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon

Western Deanery Dean: Very Rev. Brian Stanley, V.F.
Berrien and Van Buren Counties
+ SS John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor
+ St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph
+ St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan; + St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs and + Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Bridgman
+ St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo; + St. Agnes Parish, Sawyer and + St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Three Oaks
+ St. Mark Parish and + St. Mary Parish, Niles
+ St. Basil Parish, South Haven; + Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor and + St. Jude Parish, Gobles
+ St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet and + Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford
+ St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw; + St. Margaret Mary Parish, Marcellus* and + St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan [*Cass County]

WHAT’S A DEANERY?
A subdivision of a diocese, consisting of a number of parishes, over which presides a dean appointed by a bishop. The duty of the dean is to watch over the clergy of the deanery, to see that they fulfill the orders of the bishop, and observe the liturgical and canon laws. He summons the conference of the deanery and presides at it. Periodically he makes a report to the bishop on conditions in the deanery.

WHAT IS A “VICAR FORANE”?
A vicar forane, sometimes called a dean, is a priest appointed by the bishop in order to promote a common pastoral activity in a region of the diocese and to provide spiritual and pastoral counsel to the other priests in that region.

The term “vicar forane” comes from Latin, meaning a representative (vicarius) who is outside (foras), because these priests were considered representatives of the bishop outside of the cathedral city. The office of vicar forane probably dates back to the fourth century when Christianity began to spread beyond the major cities to rural areas. Seeing the need to send representatives to these communities which had embraced the faith, bishops would send an “archpriest” with special delegation and responsibilities to act as a kind of overseer in the region who also was in charge of communication between the bishop and the local priests.

WHAT ARE A DEAN’S RESPONSIBILITIES?
An excerpt from Canon 555 in the Code of Canon Law defines the duties of a dean as:
• promotion and coordination of the common pastoral activity within the deanery;
• seeing that parish books are correctly managed;
• making sure that the priests of the deanery have access to spiritual helps and aid in difficult pastoral circumstances; and
• making sure that pastors in his deanery are well cared for when they are sick or dying.
• visit the parishes of the district in accordance with the regulations made by the diocesan bishop.

DEANERY IS AN ECCLESIASTICAL ENTITY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
In the Catholic Church, Can.374 §2 of the Code of Canon Law grants to bishops the possibility to join together several neighboring parishes into special groups, such as deaneries.

Each deanery is headed by a dean who is — according to the definition provided in canon 553—a priest appointed by the bishop after consultation with the priests exercising ministry in the deanery.
Diocese ordains two local young men to transitional diaconate

By Sarah DeMott

On Saturday, June 26, the Diocese of Kalamazoo welcomed Jeffrey Hanley and Maximilian Nightingale into the clerical life through the Ordination of Deacons.

Dcn. Jeff, a 2009 graduate of St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph and Dcn. Max, a 2009 graduate of Lakeshore High School, Stevensville, will now begin their pastoral ministry as they finish their studies in pursuit of the priesthood.

The Transitional Diaconate is for men who are in formation for the priesthood. If priestly ordination is to a priest what a wedding is to a married couple, the transitional diaconate ordination is the engagement. The ordination to the priesthood usually occurs one year after the transitional diaconate. Transitional deacons have the same permissions as a permanent deacon — they can baptize and witness marriages, read the Gospel and preach at Mass, and distribute Communion. A deacon has a special ministry to the poor, sick, elderly, divorced, imprisoned and others in need. The Order of Deacons, which includes both transitional and permanent deacons, was established by the Apostles and restored by the Second Vatican Council.

“One of the most significant aspects of entering the transitional diaconate is making the promises of prayer, celibacy, and obedience,” says Dcn. Max. “When we make these promises, we are pledging to consecrate our entire lives to the service of God and of his Church, first as deacons, and ultimately as priests. This is certainly the most significant step leading up to the priesthood.”

Please keep Dcns. Jeff and Max in your prayers as they continue their final year of formation before being ordained to the priesthood.

Jeffrey Hanley
Home Parish: SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor
High School: St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph
Summer Assignment: Battle Creek Collaborative

Looking most forward to as a deacon: “I am looking forward to spending this summer here in the Diocese with everyone and growing in our love of Christ together. In particular, I look forward to preaching the Gospel, administering Baptisms, and receiving the marriage vows of couples in the name of the Church.”

Called to priesthood: “During the summer before I entered High School, I attended a Franciscan Youth Conference on the campus of Franciscan University in Ohio with my youth group. It was there that, with the many speakers witnessing to their faith and particularly with an opportunity to be with Our Lord in the Eucharist in Adoration, I first encountered the call to the priesthood in a conscious way.”

Maximilian Nightingale
Home Parish: St. Joseph, St. Joseph
High School: Lakeshore High School, Stevensville
Summer Assignment: St. Joseph, St. Joseph Collaborative

Looking most forward to as a deacon: “I am most looking forward to proclaiming and preaching the Gospel. Just as the Gospel and the homily prepare the people at Mass for the Eucharist which follows, so also will my office of proclaiming the Gospel prepare me for the priestly office of consecrating and offering the Eucharist.”

Called to priesthood: “My grandpa was the first person to regularly suggest that I consider the priesthood when I was in high school. There was one Easter during high school when I stayed with a religious community for a few days. It was after this experience, witnessing the life of men who had given their lives to God with joy and love, that I became set on giving my own life to doing God’s will.”

Catholic Extension invites you to join Camp Catholic — its online summer camp for Catholics of all ages. Running from June 12 through August 28, the virtual camp is a fun way to keep engaged in the Catholic faith through weekly email messages that feature a Gospel passage paired with interactive content including activities and “Catholic Questions” that can be shared with friends and family and are delivered to participants’ email.

Content will include Gospel reflections from seminarians as well as educational offerings with catechesis and explanations behind Catholic teachings and traditions. Each week campers can also expect a “Weekly Challenge” encouraging them to share their faith with others and engage with Catholic Extension on social media.

Sign up online at https://www.catholicextension.org/campcatholic
Baseball is by far the most Catholic of the sports on which we lavish such attention and passion. Because it’s played without a clock, baseball is like the liturgy: a foretaste of the time-beyond-time, which is God’s time, which is eternity. Baseball is also spatially eschatological or infinite: in theory, a baseball field could extend forever — as center field in New York’s old Polo Grounds seemed to do, except when patrolled by a higher spirit in human form who made spamous (and Vic Wertz’s home run in the 1954 World Series) disappear: Willie Mays.

And let’s not forget baseball and Catholic social doctrine. The social doctrine has four foundational principles — human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Each of them may be found in baseball, a game played by communitarian individuals who live freedom for excellence such that personal achievement contributes to the general welfare through a well-ordered division of hierarchical responsibilities exercised in cooperative teamwork. (I once tried to explain this to Pope St. John Paul II: without success, alas.)

The Catholicity of baseball also extends to many of the pastime’s noblest people, on and off the field. Two of them come to mind as the 2016 season unfolds.

The first is Bill Freehan, an 11-time All-Star catcher for the Detroit Tigers who deserves a good look by the committee responsible for correcting the mistakes made by earlier Hall of Fame voters. Freehan’s greatest season was 1968. And without him the Tigers wouldn’t have won the World Series that year, for he made the crucial play at the plate that prevented the Cardinals’ Lou Brock from scoring, thus turning the tide in game five, which the Tigers went on to win — along with games six and seven.

Freehan’s daughter Cathy is a member of my parish and I had the pleasure of meeting the Tiger great on a few occasions when he was visiting his grandchildren. We talked, as baseball people do, of the past: He told me how much he’d enjoyed competing against Frank and Brooks Robinson of my Orioles, and he loved the story of how Baltimore fans bombarded showboating Reggie Jackson with hot dogs dispensed from the upper deck when Reggie played his first game in Memorial Stadium after abandoning Baltimore for the fleasheets of New York and the overbearing Yankees.

Bill Freehan, a serious Catholic and a true sportsman, is now in hospice care, another victim of Alzheimer’s Disease. He has my support in prayer and I hope he has yours, too — even if you’re a St. Louis fan with unhappy memories of 1968.

Then there’s 88-year-old Vin Scully, who’ll retire from the Los Angeles Dodgers’ broadcast booth at the end of this season, having called games involving Jackie Robinson, Sandy Koufax, Kirk Gibson, and Clayton Kershaw over the course of an extraordinary six-decade career. If Scully’s mentor and former partner, Red Barber, was the soft-spoken, reasonable, and aware of surroundings, they shouldn’t stop listening to what’s happening. Scully brings to his work the perspective of a philosopher at ease with the human condition, perhaps first formed by the liberal arts education he received at Fordham University shortly after World War II — “André Dawson has a bruised knee and is listed as day-to-day. [Pause.] Aren’t we all?”

Vin Scully has lived through tragedies that would have crushed or embittered others: the death of a wife; the death of a son. He openly credits the Catholic faith with which he grew up in the Bronx as his life’s anchor. You can find him on Sunday at St. Jude the Apostle Church in Inglewood for Mass during Lent. His broadcast voice is now generic and accepts the basic news but need not know all graphic details. Adults should discuss what happened with them as they should with teenagers to find out what they are thinking and give them reassurances or safety tips.

“Assure them tragedies are rare, but don’t say it will never happen to you, we can’t make that promise today,” said Joseph White, a child psychologist and catechetical author based in Austin, Texas, who presented a June 16 webinar for Our Sunday Visitor called: “When Disaster Strikes: Helping Children Cope With Tragedies, Disasters and Acts of Terror.”

White began working with children who had gone through traumatic events when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma.

He was meeting with an adviser April 19, 1995, when he saw a huge cloud outside the window from the Oklahoma City bombing.

The bombing shook the entire community, he said, and many people in the area had nightmares for days and felt on edge wanting to know why it happened. Children were no exception; they were shaken up and scared.

In a question-and-answer session during the webinar, one person wrote in that it is almost impossible to keep children from the news, even if it isn’t on at home because kids at school are talking about what’s happening.

In this case, White said parents should talk with kids about what they’ve heard so they can correct misconceptions or clarify anything. He also advised teaching children to set limits and tell their friends they don’t want to talk about the events.

Older children and teens especially should know how to be safe, he said, to be sure to look around and be aware of their surroundings and know the safety exits.

In a blog post, “Talking to Kids about Terrorism,” author Thomas Gagliano, who has written books on parenting, stressed that while children need to be cautious and aware of surroundings, they shouldn’t stop living and doing what they want to do.

“Assure your child that you and the other authori-
The Struggle to Love Our Neighbor

Ron Rolheiser column

“The most damaging idolatry is not the golden calf but enmity against the other.” The renowned anthropologist, Rene Girard, wrote that and its truth is not easily admitted. Most of us like to believe that we are mature and big-hearted and that we do love our neighbors and are free of enmity towards others. But is this so?

In our more honest, more accurately perhaps, in our more humbly moments, I think that all of us admit that we don’t really love others in the way that Jesus asked. We don’t turn the other cheek. We don’t really love our enemies. We don’t wish good to those who wish us harm. We don’t bless those who curse us. And we don’t genuinely forgive those who murder our loved ones. We are decent, good-hearted persons, but persons whose heaven is still too preoccupied on needing an emotional vindication in the face of anyone or anything that opposes us. We can be fair, we can be just, but we don’t yet love the way Jesus asked us to, that is, so that our love goes out to both those who love us and to those who hate us. We still struggle, mightily, mostly unsuccessfully, to wish our enemies well.

But for most of us who like to believe ourselves mature that battle remains hidden, mostly from ourselves. We tend to feel that we are loving and forgiving because, essentially, we are well-intentioned, sincere, and able to believe and say all the right things; but there’s another part of us that isn’t nearly so noble. The Irish Jesuit, Michael Paul Gallagher, (who died recently and will be dearly missed) puts this well when he writes (In Extra Time): “You probably don’t hate anyone, but you can be paralyzed by daily negatives. Mini-prejudices and knee-jerk judgements can produce a mood of undeclared war. Across barbed wire fences, invisible bullets fly.” Loving the other as oneself, is submitted, is for most of us an impossible uphill climb.

So where does that leave us? Serving out a life-sentence of mediocrity and hypocrisy? Prospering to loving our enemies but not doing it? How can we profess to be Christians when, if we are honest, we have admit that we are not measuring up to the litmus-test of Christian discipleship, namely, loving and forgiving our enemies? Perhaps we are not as bad as we think we are. If we are still struggling, we are still healthy. In making us, it seems, God factored human complexity, human weakness, and how growing into deeper love is a life-long journey.

What can look like hypocrisy from the outside can in fact be a pilgrimage, a Camino walk, when seen within a fuller light of patience and understanding.

Thomas Aquinas, in speaking about union and intimacy, makes this important distinction. He distinguishes between being in union with something or somebody in actuality and being in union with that someone or something through desire. This has many applications but, applied in this case; it means that sometimes the heart can only go somewhere through desire rather than in actuality. We can believe in the right things and want the right things and still not be able to bring our hearts onside. One example of this is what the old catechisms (in their unique wisdom) used to call “imperfect contrition”, that is, the notion that if you have done something wrong that you know is wrong and that you know that you should feel sorry for, but you can’t in fact feel sorry for, then if you can wish that you could feel sorry, that’s contrition enough, not perfect, but enough. It’s the best you can do and it puts you at the right place at the level of desire, not a perfect place, but one better than its alternative.

And that “imperfect” place does more for us than simply providing the minimal standard of contrition needed for forgiveness. More importantly it accords rightful dignity to whom and to what we have hurt.

Reflecting on our inability to genuinely love our neighbor, Mari lynne Robinson submits that, even in our failure to live up what Jesus asks of us, if we are struggling honestly, there is some virtue. She argues this way: Freud said that we cannot love our neighbor as ourselves, and no doubt this is true. But since we accept the reality that lies behind the commandment, that our neighbor is as worthy of love as ourselves, then in our very attempt to act on Jesus’ demand we are acknowledging that our neighbor is worthy of love even if, at that point in our lives, we are too weak to provide it.

And that’s the crucial point: In continuing to struggle, despite our failures, to live up to the Jesus’ great commandment of love we acknowledge the dignity inherent in our enemies, acknowledge that they are worthy of love, and acknowledge our own shortcoming. That’s “imperfect” of course, but, I suspect, Thomas Aquinas would say it’s a start!

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser

NFP Awareness Week Begins July 24, 2016

“Our Father” by Rainer Oberthur, illustrated by Barbara Nascimbeni.

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2016). 58 pp., $16.

The Our Father is one of those prayers we memorize at an early age and recite without much thought and reflection. Adults can re-engage and children truly can learn about the meaning of the words of the prayer that Jesus gave to us in the Bible. Brightly colored images help illustrate the prayer which is broken down more accurately perhaps, in our more humbly moments, I think that all of us admit that we don’t really love others in the way that Jesus asked. We don’t turn the other cheek. We don’t really love our enemies. We don’t wish good to those who wish us harm. We don’t bless those who curse us. And we don’t genuinely forgive those who murder our loved ones. We are decent, good-hearted persons, but persons whose heaven is still too preoccupied on needing an emotional vindication in the face of anyone or anything that opposes us. We can be fair, we can be just, but we don’t yet love the way Jesus asked us to, that is, so that our love goes out to both those who love us and to those who hate us. We still struggle, mightily, mostly unsuccessfully, to wish our enemies well.

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NFP Awareness Week Begins July 24, 2016

“Natural Family Planning, Love, Mercy, Life. Opening the Heart of Marriage” is the theme of this year’s Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God’s vision for marriage and promote the methods of Natural Family Planning.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for the safe, natural and effective methods of both achieving and avoiding pregnancy. NFP methods teach couples how to observe and interpret the woman’s signs of fertility and infertility. In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, NFP methods “respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them and favor the education of an authentic freedom.” (CCC, no. 2370)

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week are: July 24 – 30, 2016. These dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical Humanae Vitae (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

Want to learn more about the methods of NFP of...
Memoria Histórica del Ministerio Hispano/Latino (continuación de los artículos anteriores)

En el momento actual, año 2016, el Ministerio Hispánico hace parte de la Secretaría de la Vida Parroquial y Liderazgo Laical (Secretariat for Parish Life and Lay Leadership) y tiene por nombre el Ministerio Multicultural y Multilateral. El equipo del Ministerio Hispánico y Multicultural lo conforman la Dra. Fanny Taques, Directora Asociada del Secretariado de la Vida Parroquial y Liderazgo Laical, Maria Trumm, Secretaria de medio tiempo, Veronica Rodriguez, Directora Asociada de la Secretaría de la Vida Parroquial y Liderazgo Laical (Pastoral Juvenil) y las Hermanas Jóvenes. También lo apoya medio tiempo y la Dra. Angela Valdes quien ayuda medio tiempo para el Instituto San Agustín, un programa de formación pastoral de líderes.

La misión del Ministerio Multicultural y Hispánico/Latino es proclamar el Reino de Dios. Como miembros de la Iglesia en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo, proclamamos que Dios está presente cuando nos reconocemos como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. Nosotras demostramos nuestro amor al dar la bienvenida y servir a los migrantes y residentes como miembros de la Iglesia. La hospitalidad y la solidaridad son dones que otras culturas tratan a nuestra diócesis y a la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos. Todos los Católicos de todas las culturas son motivados a ser anfitriones para los recién llegados y a que participen como miembros plenos de la Iglesia en la vida parroquial y en otras instituciones católicas, de modalidades y en la diócesis.

Programas que ofrece el Ministerio Hispánico: Misa en español en los campos en el verano; Diferentes programas como retiros, espirituales y charlas de formación; Preparación y celebración de las sacramentaciones; Pastoral juvenil hispana en varias Parroquias; Retiros de preparación para quinceañeras; Encuentros pre-matrimoniales; Catequesis bilíngue para niños y jóvenes; Formación de Liderazgo Pastoral en español; Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana integrado por representantes de la Iglesia en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo que deseen interactuar con su comunidad católica en el Reino de Dios.

**Hermans María Consuelo Monsae Sarrazala**

Dra. Fanny Taques, DMIn

El pasado 24 de junio al 5 de julio tuvimos la presencia de la Hermana María Consuelo Monsae Sarrazala, Superiora General de las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu que están en Fennville. La Hermana Consuelo vino a la Diócesis de Kalamazoo a visitar a las Hermanas de su Congregación que están aquí por cinco años y que viven en Pearl y para ver el maravilloso trabajo que están haciendo. También acompañó a las Hermanas que vienen, cada verano, para el ministerio con los campesinos migrantes.

**Diócesis de Kalamazoo: Retiro Espiritual en español de Discernimiento Vocacional para el Diácono Permanente**

*¿Has sentido el llamado de Dios para servir a su comunidad con alegría como diácono? Los invitamos a un retiro espiritual de discernimiento vocacional que será el viernes 22 de Julio del 2016 de 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, MI 49057.*

Este retiro espiritual de discernimiento vocacional es para aquellos que deseen participar como diácono permanente en español. A este retiro están invitadas las esposas. Por favor traer sus bíblias. No habrá cultos durante el retiro. Para más información, para registrarse o si tiene preguntas puede enviar un mensaje a Maria Trumm al mtrumm@diokaazo.org o llamar por teléfono al (269) 903-0197.

**Retiro Juvenil Diocesano:**

*Jesús y los 7 Jóvenes del Evangelio*

El sábad 30 de Julio del 2016 de 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. tendremos un retiro juvenil diocesano. El lugar del retiro será en el edificio del Starley Centre de la Parroquia St. Catharine, 1150 W Centre Ave, Portage, MI 49024. Este retiro es para todos los jóvenes de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo que deseen participar activa en la Iglesia católica. En el 2014 se graduaron 80 estudiantes del Instituto San Agustín y para el año 2014-2017 hay 150 estudiantes en el Instituto.

**Retiro en Español:**

*Jesús y los 7 Jóvenes del Evangelio*

El sábado 30 de julio del 2016 de 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. tendremos un retiro juvenil diocesano. El lugar del retiro será en el edificio del Starley Centre de la Parroquia St. Catharine, 1150 W Centre Ave, Portage, MI 49024. Este retiro es para todos los jóvenes de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo que deseen participar activa en la Iglesia católica. En el 2014 se graduaron 80 estudiantes del Instituto San Agustín y para el año 2014-2017 hay 150 estudiantes en el Instituto.

**Agosto/August**

Agosto: Temporada del Ministro Migrante Diocesano, hasta Agosto. Centro Alemán ubicado en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Hartford. Será para los meses de Julio y Agosto. Horario: Lunes y Martes de 6:30-8:30 pm y Domingos de 12:30-2:30 pm.

20 (Viernes): 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Centro Alemán de Pastoral Hispana, Hartford. Lugar: Centro Alemán, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, MI. Habrá comida para todos, inmediatamente después de la Santa Misas. También habrá actividades como: pátinas, juegos, y premios para niños y jóvenes, hasta las 5:00pm. Todo será gratis. Las mesas estarán preparadas para presentar una valiosa información en español e inglés. ¡Traga a toda su familia y amigos.

**Calendario/Calendar**

**Julio/July**

**Fiesta Diocesana: Día de la Familia**

La Oficina del Ministerio Hispánico de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo y el Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana invita a la Fiestas del Verano. "Fiesta Diocesana*, el domingo 14 de agosto del 2016. Santa Misa Campana a las 12:00pm celebrada por el Señor Obispo Paul Bradley, Obispo de Kalamazoo. Lugar: Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, MI. Habrá comida para todos, inmediatamente después de la Santa Misa. También habrá actividades como: piñatas, juegos, y premios para niños y jóvenes, hasta las 5:00pm. Todo será gratis. Las mesas estarán preparadas para presentar una valiosa información en español e inglés. ¡¡Traiga a toda su familia y amigos. Los esperamos para disfrutar este día en Familia!! Desde ya, Gracias por su participación. Teléfono para más información: (269) 903-0197.

*¡Los Esperamos!*
**Persons with Disabilities Gathering**

Persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers are invited to an informal gathering to share the experiences, challenges and joys of their faith life with members of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry to Persons with Disabilities. Saturday, Sept. 10 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Holy Angels Parish Gym, 402 S. Nottawa St., Sturgis, MI. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP appreciated, especially if accommodations are needed.

Contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org

**Activities around the diocese**

**July 10:** Polish Mass, Holy Family Parish, Decatur. 2 p.m. Mass in Polish followed by potluck reception.

**July 11-13:** Lake Michigan Catholic School Runnagall Sale, LMC Elementary, St. Joseph, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**July 12:** Summer Book Study: Forming Intentional Disciples, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, following 5:30 p.m. Mass. Join a summer book study on Sherry Waddell’s “Forming Intentional Disciples.” Group meets Tuesdays, July 12, 19, 26; Aug. 2. Book is available on Amazon or contact parish office for ordering assistance.

**July 13, 27:** Wednesdays in the Word, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, following 10:30 a.m. Mass. For elementary-aged students, focus on a holy person. July 13 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; July 27 – Blessed Titus Brandsma. No cost, no RSVP, donations accepted. Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 616-291-7443.

**July 16-17:** Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend: Transforming Spirituality Center, Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed minimum of 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is $175. Additional 2016 dates: Sept. 24-25, Nov. 12-13. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199, struchan@diokzoo.org.

**July 16:** St. Basil School 65th Anniversary Celebration, Mass with Bishop Bradley at 5 p.m. followed by dinner on the bluffs at 6:30 p.m. Cost for meal is $30/person. RSVP: 269-637-3529.

**July 17:** 125th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Bradley at 2 p.m., St. John Church, Benton Harbor.

**July 17:** St. John’s will celebrate their 125th Anniversary with Bishop Bradley celebrating Mass at 2 p.m. There will be lots of food, fellowship and music performed by “LoveGoodMusic,” with catholic musicians, Kevin Heider and Chris Cole.

**July 18-21:** Vacation Bible School, St. Mary’s Visitation School, focus on St. Philip Neri. Contact: 269-903-0199.

**July 30:** 50th Anniversary Celebration Mass and Picnic, St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, Byron Center. Join the parish for a day of fellowship and celebration starting at 2 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Murray at 5 p.m. with a picnic dinner to follow. Polka band plays at 7 p.m. with a fireworks display at dark.

**July 31:** 150th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Bradley at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, Byron Center.


**July 28:** Open to baptized adult Catholics. Sessions held at the St. Bernard Location on Sundays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. For questions or to register, contact: Brooke Avello, email: brooke.avello@gmail.com, 269-281-1389.

**Aug. 1:** Organ Workshop, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph. David Jonies, Associate Director of Music and Organist, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, will lead a workshop for church organists from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact: Office of Worship, drelly@diokzoo.org, or Dr. Thomas Fielding. Music Director, St. Augustine Cathedral, 6 p.m.

**Aug. 1-5:** Vacation Bible School, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Hastings. Contact: 269-945-4246.

**Aug. 4:** Summer in the Son, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr. A day of adoration, celebration, learning and giving. Contact: 616-291-7443.

**Aug. 8:** “Intentional Disciples” with Julie Carrick Ministries, Holy Family Parish, Decatur, 7 p.m. No cost; free will offering. Volunteers needed. Contact: Deb Leahy, 507-210-1706.

**Aug. 9:** “Mercy, Ordinary and Divine” with Julie Carrick Ministries, Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac. 7 p.m. No cost; free will offering. Volunteers needed. Contact: Deb Leahy, 507-210-1706.

**Aug. 14:** Diocesan Fiesta, Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford, 12 p.m.


**Aug. 22:** Confirmation for migrant farmworker community, St. Augustine Cathedral, 6 p.m.
Parish Collaborative Spotlight:

Cass County in the southern portion of the Diocese is dotted with beautiful countryside and a host of lakes that are home to many vacationers during the summer. It’s also home to two newly created Parish Collaboratives: Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac, Holy Family, Decatur and Sacred Heart, Silver Creek Parish Collaborative and Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg and St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis Collaborative [St. Margaret Mary Parish, Marcellus is also in Cass County and part of a Parish Collaborative in Van Buren County with St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw and St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan.]

Transition Committee teams from both Parish Collaboratives have been meeting to address new Mass schedules and work on other logistics such as shared resources.

At a recent meeting in Holy Family, Decatur, the members met for the first time with Pastor Very Rev. Richard Altone and Parochial Vicar, Rev. Wieslaw Lipka. The members were in the midst of planning some joint events between the three Parishes including a picnic and a Catechetical Concert featuring Julie Carrick [see sidebar].

With the arrival of Fr. Lipka, a native of Poland, Holy Family will host a Mass in Polish on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m.

Meanwhile in the Cassopolis, County Seat, a recent Transition Committee brought together parishioners from Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg and St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis. The two Parishes have been working together since the retirement of long-time Pastor, Rev. Don Potts. They recently adjusted Mass schedules and have begun publishing a joint bulletin, created with the help of Diocesan Publications.

As the group discussed some logistics such as shared staffing resources the mood was friendly and hopeful for the opportunities ahead.

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Serving our migrant community with pastoral and material needs

By Sarah DeMott

As the farming season begins to grow with the summer heat, the diocese sees an influx of migrant farmworker families.

Last year, the ministry visited 415 camps and served more than 18,500 people.

The diocese serves both the spiritual and material needs of migrant families. Masses and prayer services are celebrated at the camps on weekday evenings. Sunday liturgies are celebrated in the parishes that offer services in Spanish. Volunteers help develop catechetical programs and teach catechism classes.

Food, clothing, bedding, layettes, furniture, kitchen utensils and cleaning supplies are provided through the Alemán Center in Hartford. The migrant farmworker families are also provided with information about services available, such as schooling, immigration and legal issues, health providers and more.

Fourteen parishes have active migrant ministries who visit camps, collect and sort clothing and provide supplies and emergency food. Several other parishes contribute donations.

The Alemán Center in Hartford is a diocesan project in collaboration with Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford, St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo and volunteers. Named for Deacon Eugenio Alemán, the center administers Ministry in the diocese. “The farmworkers feel very proud and happy about this opportunity to share with the bishop and grow in faith. They feel welcomed into this diocese.”

Last year, 50 children, youth and adults received their First Communion. Local parishes and summer missionaries provide catechesis and sacrament preparation for baptism, first reconciliation, first communion and confirmation.