Youth to be protagonists in upcoming synod of bishops

With the 2014-2015 Synod of Bishops on the Family barely falling out of sight, the preparatory document for the next synod dedicated to youth has been released, indicating that young people will play an active role in both the preparation and the discussion. — Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News)

“Through every phase of this Synod, the Church wants again to state her desire to encounter, accompany and care for every young person, without exception,” a preparatory document for the 2018 synod read.

“The Church cannot, nor does she wish to, abandon them to the isolation and exclusion to which the world exposes them.”

The theme for the 2018 50th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, “Young People, the Faith and the Discernment of Vocation,” was announced Oct. 6, 2016.

According to the document, in choosing this specific theme, the Church wanted not only ask herself “how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love,” but also “to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today.”

“By listening to young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today’s world. Listening to their aspirations, the Church can glimpse the world which lies ahead and the paths the Church is called to follow.”

Released Friday, the document for synod is divided into three parts focusing on the themes of “Young People in Today’s World,” “Faith, Discernment and Vocation” and “Pastoral Action.”

It concludes with a series of questions directed at the synods and councils of patriarchs of the Eastern Catholic Churches, episcopal conferences, dicasteries of the Roman Curia and the Union of Superiors General.

While some of the questions are more general, others are divided by continent in order grasp the differing realities of youth around the world, as well as to go outside of the “Western, European, even an Italian” lens through which the reality of the Church is often read, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri said.

In addition to the questions included in the text, a separate questionnaire specifically aimed at youth and “their expectations and their lives” will be available online. Though it’s not active yet, Cardinal Baldisseri said the site is expected to be ready by March 1, and will be www.sindodogiovane2018.va.

See Synod, Youth continued on page 8

Bishop Bradley to celebrate Mass and Anointing of the Sick at Borgess Hospital on February 10

Each year the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for the Sick to recognize those suffering from illness and their caregivers. Many parishes embrace the sick and suffering by celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on the World Day of the Sick.

Bishop Bradley will celebrate this sacrament during Mass at Borgess Hospital, Lawrence Education Center Auditorium (1521 Gull Road), at Noon on February 10th. All are welcome to attend. Any person with a physical or mental illness, or who is facing surgery, is encouraged to receive the sacrament. In his message for the 2017 World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis writes, “the world of suffering and sickness” is revealed in Jesus.

“The solidarity shown by Christ, the Son of God born of Mary, is the expression of God’s merciful omnipotence, which is made manifest in our life — above all when that life is frail, pain-filled, humbled, marginalized, and suffering — and fills it with the power of hope that can sustain us and enable us to get up again.”

Sisters explore establishing permanent home in the Diocese of Kalamazoo

Bishop Bradley makes pastoral visit to Motherhouse in La Ceja, Colombia

Sisters from a religious order in Colombia are progressing in establishing a permanent home in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Missioneras Siervas del Divino Espiritu (Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit) arrived in the Diocese in 2014 due to the generosity of Catholic Extension’s U.S.-Latin American Sisters Exchange Program.

The grant program awards funding religious sisters from Latin American congregations who will come to minister among Latino immigrant populations in a “mission diocese” in the United States. It would be the first foundation of the Order established in the United States. Currently, Sisters Maryud Cortes and Yuliana Rua live on the grounds of San Felipe de Jesus Mission Parish in Fennville.

Last month Bishop Bradley along with Rev. Fabio Garzon, Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Douglas, San Felipe de Jesus, Fennville and Immaculate Conception, Hartford, travelled to La Ceja, in the Diocese of Medellin, Colombia. During his visit, Bishop Bradley met with Mother Consuelo, as well as Bishop Fidel, for continued discussions on the sisters establishing a permanent foundation order in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

In his letter of gratitude to Mother Consuelo Bishop Bradley stated, “…It is also a grace to review with you the wonderful work currently being done by the Sisters in Fennville and in many other parts of our Diocese, and to see the fruitfulness borne of their love and deep commitment to the Lord Jesus. For these and others, the Sisters are working to establish a foundation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Bishop Bradley is shown above during his visit to the Motherhouse in La Ceja, Colombia of the Missioneras Hermanas del Divino Espíritu (Missionary Sisters of the Divine Spirit). The religious order currently serving in the Diocese primarily at San Felipe de Jesus and with the migrant community are working to establish a foundation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.
From the Editor

By Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

I was running on autopilot that morning. Rushing through the get-out-of-the-house routine to drop off favorite son at school and make it quickly to work in time for an early meeting. Son buckled up, check. Work papers in my briefcase — check. Much-needed caffeine supply — check. Ok — let’s go. Then… bam! Crunch! Somehow I managed to neglect one small detail — to make sure the garage door was open before backing up my car.

Luckily the only damages were to my garage door. It was a jarring experience and that sound of crushed metal tends to stay with you as the “what if’s” float through your brain as they normally will do in the aftermath of any fender-bender.

Imagining all that could have been was enough to accomplish one much needed thing in my daily life — it made me slow down. I stopped racing against the clock so much only to shave a mere few minutes off my commute time. I stopped so fast through my routine that I couldn’t even remember what I had just done or where I was going. I became more intentional.

Sometimes we need that jarring moment in our own faith journey. For some it might be as dramatic as a scary diagnosis or life-threatening event, or for others, like me, just the near miss of something catastrophic is all it takes.

During these shorter winter days and seemingly endless gray skies it’s easy for me to get lulled back into that faith “rut.” Sunday Mass — check. In the words of my favorite childhood show, “same bat channel; same bat time.”

So what can you do to draw closer to God? To dive a bit deeper in your faith without the “extras” afforded us in Advent and Easter? Maybe try going to Mass at a new time and sit somewhere different. It’s amazing what a different view can do for your attention. Feeling overwhelmed? Keep a gratitude journal — list all the good you have experienced in the day. Embrace the silence — give God the space to connect. Go on a retreat — recharge your spirit. Keep company with God everyday.

Start with something simple but start something.

One of my favorite quotes helps remind me where my journey should be leading: “What you are is God’s gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.” — Hans Urs von Balthasar

Trade-in your autopilot and become something intentional today.

Pope Francis February Intentions
Comfort for the Afflicted.

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

Archdiocese ordains two new auxiliary bishops

Last month Archbishop Allen Vigneron ordained two new auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Bishop Gerard W. Battersby, 56, vice-rector and dean of formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, and Bishop Robert J. Fisher, 57, pastor of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, were ordained on January 25, 2017 as auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Bishop Gerard Battersby was born May 15, 1960. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Wayne State University, Detroit, in 1983; and a master of divinity degree from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, 1998. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit on May 30, 1998. He received a licentiate in sacred theology in 2008 from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in sacred theology at the Angelicum.

Bishop Battersby’s assignments after ordination included: parochial vicar at St. Thecla Church, Clinton Township, Michigan, 1998–2000; and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Detroit, 2000–2001; pastor, St. Christopher Church, Detroit, 2001–2007; director of formation, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2007–2009; pastor, St. Leo Church, 2007–2009. In addition to serving as vice-rector/director of seminarian formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2011-present. Bishop Battersby also serves as pastor at St. Mary’s of Redford Church, 2015-present.


Pastoral Letter Excerpt:

Through our baptism, and the graces of that primary of all the sacraments, each of us is called to help build up the Church. On the day each of us was baptized, assuming that most of us were baptized as infants (and therefore were blissfully unaware at any conscious level what was taking place in the core of our souls and very being), our parents and godparents committed us to a life of faith by making solemn promises in our names. Over the course of our lives, on the day of our confirmation, and each year on Easter Sunday, we renew our solemn baptismal promises to God: • To reject Satan and the power of sin • To live as God’s faithful people • To believe in God, the Father — Son — Holy Spirit. • To hear the Word of God and share in the Holy Eucharist • To believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church • To proclaim the Good News of Jesus through our works and deeds • To believe in the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, and in all this, to live as followers of Jesus.

Download copies of Bishop Bradley’s pastoral letter in print and audio at www.diokzoo.org.

Rev. Mike Rejent has been assigned to the Holy Family Parish, Decatur Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac; and Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Silver Creek Collaborative, where he will serve as Parochial Vicar assisting Very Rev. Richard Altine, V.F.

Very Rev. Brian Stanley, pastor, SS. John/Bernard, Benton Harbor, has been placed on administrative leave.

Very Rev. Robert Creagan, has been appointed Administrator Pro Temp of SS. John/Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor and acting Dean of the Western Deanery. Fr. Creagan continues as Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph.

Rev. Mike Rejent

Very Rev. Brian Stanley

Rev. Robert Creagan

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

Pardon a digression… The Good News is the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, announcements, etc. included in the paper are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinions column, 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.

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

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www.diokzoo.org

Mission Statement of The Good News: The Good News is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Bishop of Kalamazoo is the publisher and president. The Good News is an extension in the print medium of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in its orthodoxy, authority and balanced trimming. It 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 and to develop as mature, well-informed Catholics and to deepen their commitment to, and relationship with, the Lord, their Catholic faith and their Church.

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
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Archdiocese ordains two new auxiliary bishops

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THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

Discerning God’s Plan for our lives

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

It’s an often-asked question we throw out to children, the responses to which are usually both amusing and inspiring. For a child, the sky’s the limit as they dream of becoming something very glamorous, such as a heroic firefighter, a jet-setting movie star, or an Olympic athlete. When I was a boy playing baseball, my favorite pastime, my dream was to be the slugger for the Pittsburgh Pirates like my hero, Frank Thomas. Imagine my delight when as a young priest, I was assigned to the parish where the real Frank Thomas was an active parishioner.

As we grow and mature, our childhood dreams become a bit more practical and realistic. Hopefully we receive guidance and counsel of loving parents, challenging teachers and a strong, supportive community. But what part does God have in helping us to answer that most important question about our future? Do we take the time to prayerfully discern what God might have in mind for our lives? Doesn’t it make sense that the One Who created us, “wove [us] in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13) would have something in mind for our lives? Is the plan for our future lives something that we decide unilaterally, should that decision be based purely on what we think we want to do, what we might be good at, or what would generate for us the most income or social status? Or should we not be listening to hear what God’s plan for us might be, what will make us most happy, what will make the best use of our God-given talents? All of that is to ask ourselves: what vocation is God calling me to live?

During these long winter days and in this Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar, just after celebrating Christmas and before we enter into Lent, we have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on this theme of “vocation”. In its basic definition, vocation means “a call.” Vocational discernment is a process by which we discern, or get clarity about, what state in life God might have in mind for us, and at the same time, what state in life/vocation appeals to us. It goes beyond thinking about what “occupation” or “career choice” we might make, but rather, what way of living our lives will make the best use of the gifts and talents God has given to us. While certainly what typically springs to mind almost immediately when we use the word, or pray for “vocations” is the priesthood, in actuality there are three basic vocations the Church defines for us: Sacrament of Marriage, Priesthood/religious life, or the committed Single state.

On February 2nd the Church celebrates the beautiful Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on the 40th day of His infancy. That Feast also happens to be the 11th anniversary of my Ordination as a Bishop, so for me this Feast has new meaning. However, the Presentation marks the occasion when Mary and Joseph brought their infant son Jesus to be presented in the Temple, as was prescribed by Jewish law. When the old priest Simeon and the aged holy woman Anna both saw this Holy Child, they knew that Jesus was the One God had sent to the world. In Simeon’s beautiful words upon seeing Jesus, we read: “Now your servant goes in peace, Lord, now let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the Holy Child.” (Luke 2:29-32) The Bishop’s Perspective

LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

Discernir el plan de Dios para nuestras vidas

“¿Qué quieres ser cuando seas grande?”

Es una pregunta que hacemos con frecuencia a los niños, cuyas respuestas suelen ser divertidas e inspiradoras. Para un niño, el cielo es el límite, ya que sueñan con convertirse en algo muy glamoroso, como un bombero heroico, una estrella de cine muy famosa o un atleta olímpico. Cuando yo era un niño jugando béisbol, mi pasatiempo favorito, mi sueño era ser el bateador de los Piratas de Pittsburgh como mi héroe, Frank Thomas. Imagínense mi deleite cuando, como joven sacerdote, fui asignado a la parroquia donde el verdadero Frank Thomas era un feligrés activo.

A medida que crecemos y maduramos, nuestros sueños de la infancia se vuelven un poco más prácticos y realistas. Con suerte recibimos orientación y consejo de padres amorosos, maestros desafiantes y una comunidad fuerte de apoyo. Pero, ¿qué parte ocupa Dios en ayudarnos a responder a la pregunta más importante sobre nuestro futuro? ¿Nos tomamos el tiempo para discernir en oración lo que Dios podría tener en mente para nuestras vidas? ¿No tiene sentido que el que nos creó, “nos tejó en el vientre de mi madre” (Salmo 139:13) tendría algo en mente para nuestras vidas? El plan para nuestro futuro es algo que decidimos unilateralmente; debería basarse esa decisión únicamente en lo que pensamos que queremos hacer, en lo que podríamos ser buenos o en lo que nos generaría más ingresos o estatus social? O ¿no deberíamos estar escuchando para oír cuál es el plan de Dios para nosotros, qué nos hará más felices, qué hará el mejor uso de nuestros talentos dados por Dios? Todo eso es preguntarnos: ¿qué vocación me está llamando Dios a vivir?

Durante estos largos días de invierno y en este tiempo ordinario en nuestro calendario litúrgico, justo después de celebrar la Navidad y antes de entrar en Cuaresma, tenemos una maravillosa oportunidad para reflexionar sobre este tema de la “vocación”. En su definición básica, la vocación significa “un llamado”. El discernimiento vocacional es un proceso mediante el cual discernimos o aclaramos qué estado de vida Dios puede tener en mente para nosotros y, al mismo tiempo, qué estado de vida/vocación nos atrae. Ya más allá de pensar en qué “ocupación” o “elección de carrera” podríamos hacer, sino en qué manera de vivir nuestras vidas harán el mejor uso los dones y talentos que Dios nos ha dado. Aunque ciertamente lo que típicamente viene a la mente casi de inmediato cuando usamos el palabra, u oramos por “vocaciones” es el sacerdocio, en realidad hay tres vocaciones básicas que la Iglesia nos define: Sacramento del Matrimonio, Sacerdocio/vida religiosa o soltero comprometido.

El 2 de febrero la Iglesia celebra la hermosa Fiesta de la Presentación de Jesús en el Templo a los 40 días de su infancia. Esta Fiesta también es el Ivo aniversario de mi Ordenación como Obispo, así que para mí esta fiesta tiene un nuevo significado. Sin embargo, la Presentación marca la ocasión en que María y José trajeron a su hijo Jesús para ser presentado en el Templo, como fue prescrito por la ley judía. Cuando el anciano sacerdote Simeón y la Santa anciana Anna vieron a este Niño Dios, sabían que Jesús era el enviado por Dios al mundo. En las hermosas palabras de Simeón al ver a Jesús, las palabras que forman la oración nocturna diaria de la Iglesia, dijo: “Ahora, Señor, según tu promesa, puedes dejar a tu siervo irse en paz, porque mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador, a quien has presentado ante todos los pueblos luz para alabar a las naciones y gloria de tu pueblo Israel.” El “llamado” de Jesús, que es su vocación, estaba a punto de comenzar, ya que Él estaba siendo preparado durante los próximos 30 años para comenzar Su ministerio público y finalmente para cumplir Su misión de salvar al mundo de la oscuridad, el pecado y el poder de muerte.

Como ustedes saben, a finales de enero tuve la gran alegría de hacer una visita pastoral a la Casa Madre de las Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu en La Ceja (cerca de Medellín) en Colombia, América del Sur. Tres de las Hermanas de esa Casa Madre tienen su ministerio aquí en nuestra Diócesis entre los católicos de habla hispánica entre nosotros. A lo largo y ancho de Colombia y en otras partes del mundo en esa área, la cultura católica es predominante y, a su vez, abundan las vocaciones religiosas, tanto en lo que respecta al gran número de jóvenes que se convierten en sacerdotes como también hombres y mujeres en la vida religiosa. Fue una estimulante y vivificante vivir entre estas alegres Hermanas durante los cinco días de mi visita pastoral. Estamos bendecidos aquí en nuestra Diócesis porque las tres Hermanas que están aquí han traído esa misma alegría y maravillosa bendición de Fe en Jesús a los católicos de habla Hispánica y a muchos otros en la zona de la Parroquia de San Felipe de Jesús en Fennieville y en varias otras partes de nuestra Diócesis. Yo y el padre Fabio Garzón que viajo conmigo también tuvimos la encantadora oportunidad de visitar a los padres y familiares de uno de nuestros sacerdotes, el Padre Evelio Ramírez, pároco de la Parroquia Holy Angels, Sturgis y St. Joseph, White Pigeon, que viven en La Ceja cerca de la Casa Madre para...
Diocesan Collection will assist priests with retirement costs

The Diocese of Kalamazoo is blessed with many senior priests. Although retired they continue to serve through prayer, assisting in parishes with Masses and confessions, visiting nursing homes and countless other ways. The special collection on the weekend of March 4 and 5, 2017, will support our diocesan priests’ retirement fund.

This collection directly benefits priests of the Diocese of Kalamazoo and is separate from the annual December collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which supports retired clergy and sisters of religious orders across America.

Annual High School retreat seeks adult volunteers

The Presence Kalamazoo is a weekend High School Youth retreat held at Hackett Catholic Prep School on February 10 through February 12. This retreat is organized by The Presence Kalamazoo, which seeks adult volunteers to assist in the following areas: meal preparation; Eucharistic Adoration; and behind-the-scenes logistics such as set-up, luggage delivery, registration and stage duties.

Registration is available online at: https://thepresencekalamazoo.org/volunteers/

Contact: Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 269-903-0139; tmcnamara@diokzoo.org.

Volunteer Deadline is February 7, 2017.
Catholic Charities looking to expand its volunteer base

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo serving the nine counties in Southwest Michigan is seeking volunteers to assist in a number of its programs and ministries. See the following for opportunities:

Quality Assurance (QA) volunteers: The volunteers assist with internal auditing of case management files. QA meets the second Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m.-Noon at Catholic Charities central office on Gull Road, Kalamazoo.

Home Heating volunteers: Volunteers process applications for funding through the Diocesan Heating Assistance Program, working in partnership with volunteers located in Catholic parishes across the diocese. The position is seasonal, serving from January through March, and volunteers work one morning a week from 9 a.m.- Noon at Catholic Charities central office on Gull Road, Kalamazoo.

Mother-Friend volunteers: Engage in a one-on-one relationship with a pregnant and/or parent-teen between the ages of 14-17. The mentor and mentee are required to meet for two hours a week. Your role is to be a supportive, non-judgmental friend. Volunteers also help with transportation to and from classes or appointments. (These positions can be weekly, once a month, or whatever works for the volunteer).

Mother-Friend Mentors: Engage in a one-on-one relationship with a Caring Network participant who desires such support. These volunteers provide supportive listening, participate in mutually agreed upon activities, and can provide transportation to and from classes or appointments. Your role is to be a supportive, non-judgmental friend.

Teen Mother Friend Mentors: Engage in a one-on-one relationship with a pregnant and/or parenting teen between the ages of 14-17. The mentor and mentee are required to meet for two hours a week (eight hours a month) and participate in mutually agreed upon activities. The goal is to focus on the strengths and assets of the young mother and help foster resiliency. Training is required.

Caring Network support volunteers: Volunteers needed to maintain the “Caring Closet” donation room by sorting, cleaning and maintaining the donated maternity, infant, and children's clothing and other items. (The position can be weekly, once a month, or whatever works for the volunteer).

Caring Network volunteers keep the Caring Closet organized during the holiday season. Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo is currently recruiting volunteers for a number of needed positions. Visit www.ccdok.org.

Kalamazoo United continues planning for major ecumenical prayer gathering this October

Catholic and Protestant clergy and educators gathered in prayer last month for a second time to discuss and further plans for Kalamazoo United. The ecumenical gathering of Christian leaders was first announced in October 2016 with the goal to invite all Christians to a prayer-centered event on October 29, 2017 in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

Pastor Jeff Wenke, The Bridge Church, Portage, Mich., and Bishop Bradley are leading the initiative and planning prayer events throughout the coming months to continue the important dialog and discussions. Future prayer times are to be held Sunday, May 7th at 6 p.m. at The Bridge Church, 7200 Angling Rd, Portage, Mich., and Sunday, September 24 at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine’s Cathedral, 542 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo United

For additional information visit www.kalamazzoounited.com; email Pastor Jeff Wenke; jeff@thebridgeportage.org.
Nazareth Association is composed of alumni and friends who wish to honor and continue the legacy provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Mich. (now known as Congregation of St. Joseph) and its former institutions of learning.

We have increased the amount of scholarship award money from $1,000 to $2,000 yearly to upperclassmen at Catholic colleges and universities effective 2017-2018 the academic year. In addition, we sponsor a $2,000 nursing scholarship for any accredited nursing program. Applicants must meet criteria posted on our website. The new deadline for applications is June 1, 2017.

Applications can be viewed and printed at www.nazarethassociation.org.

Contact: Priscilla Swiat, Phone: 269-679-4822

Catholic Schools Week, held annually the last week of January, is a dedicated time to recognize the role of a Catholic education and what makes Catholic Schools special:

BATTLE CREEK — St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School student helps bring up the gifts during the annual BCACS Mass with Bishop Bradley.

CAPSTONE SCHOLARSHIP — In 2016, Caroline Yapp, a student at Hackett Catholic Prep, earned first place and a $5,000 scholarship for her Capstone project, “Does the Galileo Affair Reveal the Catholic Church’s Opposition to Science?” The competition began in 2016.

ST. JOSEPH — Rev. Tom McNally, Chaplain and Spiritual Moderator for Lake Michigan Catholic Schools, takes some time with a 2nd grade class for a lesson on mortal and venial sin.

KALAMAZOO — Students at St. Monica Catholic School lined the hallways to pray for the presidential elections prior to polls opening last November.

THREE RIVERS — Students at Immaculate Conception Catholic School released a rosary made of balloons at the launch of their rosary garden.

DORR — Rev. Christopher Derda, Administrator at St. Stanislaus Parish, says hello to St. Stanislaus Catholic School students at the 4th of July parade.

Pastor writes spiritual reflection book for trauma survivors

By Vicki Cessna

Somewhere between pastoring and his work with the diocesan Trauma Recovery Program, Rev. Ken Schmidt, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, found time to write a new book that was released just before Christmas.

“I’ve always been a writer,” said Fr. Ken Schmidt when asked about how he found time to author his book, *You Have Set Us Free: Scriptural Reflections for Trauma Survivors*. “It’s how I clarify my own thinking.”

The book includes 27 brief chapters which feature a passage from scripture, a reflection and closing prayer. The book is modeled on the Stations of the Cross and each chapter focuses on an event in the passion of Jesus.

Fr. Schmidt co-founded the Trauma Recovery Program with Sharon Froom (to whom the book is dedicated) in 2000 to help any person dealing with childhood trauma. He explained that “sparks of insight” came naturally through his work with the participants.

“I’ve always been interested in the intersection of different disciplines,” said Fr. Schmidt. “And since I’m both a theologian and a therapist [the reflections] seemed to come naturally.”

For example in Chapter 3 the reflection centers on the theme of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples and the unworthiness expressed by Peter. Feeling unworthy is a common trait in trauma survivors.

In an excerpt from this chapter, Fr. Schmidt writes:

“Jesus wanted to do this last act of kindness for his closest friends, to show them how much he loved them and how close he felt to them, even in those last hours of his life. But his friend Peter— he just couldn’t handle it. He felt so unworthy, and then all his awkwardness and bluster just came gushing out, as he tried to avoid the intense feelings that filled the room.”

Fr. Schmidt also hopes the book, which includes a detailed description of trauma in the introduction, might act as yet another avenue to reach someone who may need to heal.

“I believe prayer is essential in the healing process,” said Fr. Schmidt. “Because God wants us to heal and be whole, and because it’s difficult work and we need God’s assistance.”

While the reflection book is geared more to personal reflection, Fr. Schmidt noted that it could be used in groups that operate with a high level of trust, but he doesn’t recommend reading it in one sitting.

“That experience can be particularly intense for a trauma survivor,” noted Fr. Schmidt.

He hopes the book is a useful tool for both trauma survivors and those who may recognize someone in their life that could benefit from the book. It also may help family and friends of trauma survivors understand the ongoing impact of childhood trauma.

“You Have Set Us Free: Scriptural Reflections for Trauma Survivors,” is published by Liturgical Press and is available for $9.95. Copies are available at St. Catherine of Siena, the Diocesan Pastoral Center and Newman Bookshoppe, Kalamazoo, or may be ordered online at Amazon or Liturgical Press.

Catholic Relief Services director will share her story during Lenten event

By Lisa Irwin

On March 3rd the diocese in conjunction with St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, is hosting a special Catholic Relief Services Lenten event. Participants will have the opportunity to encounter (the theme for this year’s Rice Bowl program) our brothers and sisters in India through the stories and reflections of Kirtimayi Mishra, the current Head of Office at Catholic Relief Services (CRS) India. Kirtimayi has had an instrumental role in many projects, including the Nepal Earthquake CRS emergency response. While visiting the diocese she will be sharing personal experiences, information about the community-based disaster preparedness CRS is implementing in a flood prone region of India and the resulting economic and nutritional impact, and speak directly about the featured CRS Rice Bowl Story of Hope for India.

Kirtimayi’s schedule for her visit on Friday, March 3rd will include:

- 8 a.m. – Interaction with students at St. Stanislaus School, Dorr. Parents are welcome.
- 9:30 a.m. – Interaction with students at St. Mary’s Visitation School, Byron Center. Parents are welcome.
- 5:30 p.m. – Solidarity Meal (simple meatless meal) at St. Catherine of Siena, Portage, in Marian Hall. A free will offering will be taken. Participants are invited to join the parish for Stations of the Cross at 7 pm. RSVP to Mary Hunt; 269-978-2338; mhunt@stcatherinesiena.org.

For more information on any of the events contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.

Meet Kirtimayi at: www.csricebowl.org/speakers/india

Continued COVER Story —

Sisters explore establishing a permanent home in the Diocese

so many other reasons, I am very happy to grant permission to begin the process of canonically erecting a foundation of your Religious Community within the territory of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Aware of the time and effort that this will require, it is nonetheless an historic moment and an exciting opportunity to see the establishment of a Community of Sisters for the first time in our Diocese since 1889. We have already begun to prepare, and look forward to bringing this project to realization with the help of the Lord.”

The canonical process to establish a foundation can take a period of time as the request is submitted to the Vatican. Meanwhile the Sisters continue their ministry to the growing Hispanic/Latino community.

For a detailed account of Bishop Bradley’s pastoral visit to Colombia visit: http://catholickalamazoo.blogspot.com/

Bishop Bradley and Fr. Fabio Garzon celebrate a special 60th anniversary Mass while in Colombia for Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez, parents of Fr. Evelio Ramirez, pastor, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon.

The Sisters’ ministry work in the diocese expands into many areas from working with the parishioners and youth of San Felipe de Jesus Mission Parish to ministering to the migrant farmworker communities during the growing season.
Retreat offers hope and healing after abortion

By Vicki Cessna

While she knew for years that the Church offered a healing retreat for those with abortion experiences, Cami said it wasn’t until three years ago that she felt called to finally “take care of it” — the “it” being her own experience with abortion when she was just 18 years old. The past participant and now retreat leader for Rachel’s Vineyard, said she “stuffed it down” for years but is a significantly different person after her own retreat. Designed for women and men, the weekend process is an opportunity to surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief. It is a specific process to help experience the mercy and compassion of God and grieve the loss of an unborn child or children.

This month a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat will be held in Kalamazoo open to both women and men who are struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of an abortion experience.

“I had a lot of fear and anxiety going into the retreat,” she admits. And while the experience of confronting the past can be challenging Cami describes the atmosphere as one of hope and healing.

“As rigorous as the internal journey is for participants, the process is done in a very gentle way and the team is very attentive to the needs of all participants — especially meeting individual people where they are.” From personal experience as both a participant and a retreat leader Cami can attest to the healing impact she’s both undergone and witnessed.

“It’s proven that if you engage in the process it will provide healing,” she adds. Cami, who has worked for years in ministry and is a trained spiritual director, is humbled by the witness of retreat participants. “I’m so humbled and grateful to be counted with the courageous women and men who have come to the retreat so shattered but are looking to be whole again,” she explains.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat
February 24-26, 2017
This retreat will be held in the Kalamazoo area. For more information or to register, call (616) 340-1824 or toll free 1-800-800-8284. email: mwalshe@ccwestmi.org All inquiries are strictly confidential. Financial assistance is available. The retreat is sponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Conference addresses ways to fight against human trafficking

Human trafficking is often hidden in our communities. Want to learn more about this form of modern-day slavery and what you can do to get involved in anti-trafficking efforts? Registration is still open for Michigan Catholic Conference’s one-day conference, From Darkness to Light: Human Trafficking and Our Response, which takes place on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at Lansing Catholic High School. This all-day event sheds light on the issue of human trafficking and its impact on Michigan. Throughout the day, participants will interact with organizations that combat the crime and learn what they can do to raise awareness. Breakfast and lunch are included in a $25 registration cost, and pre-registration is required at www.micatholic.org/fromdarknesstolight.

Contact Annie Bennett at abennett@micatholic.org or 517-316-3588 with questions.

St. Stanislaus Parish
Sweetheart Soup Dinner
Sunday, February 26, 2017
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Adults – $9
Children (7-12) – $4
6 and under – Free

Featuring: Authentic Czarnina, Hearty Chicken Noodle, Seafood Chowder, Cheesy Broccoli, and Packed Potato

Cash and Basket Raffles
St. Stanislaus Parish Hall
1861 136th Avenue
Dorr, Michigan 49323

For more information, call St. Stanislaus Parish at (269) 793-7268

Vatican City — January 13, 2017: Cardinal Baldisseri, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, presents at a briefing on upcoming Synod at the Holy See Press Office with Bishop Fabio Fabene, Undersecretary of the Synod, and two other university students on January 13, 2017.

Synod, Youth — continued from cover

He said the Synod of Bishops is taking time to ensure the language used for the questionnaire is more attractive and appealing than the “high, technical” speech frequently used by Church hierarchy.

When asked about the participation of youth in the synod discussions, Baldisseri said “the synod is a synod of bishops,” but the auditors, who participate in the meeting but can’t vote, will include young men and women with different vocations from around the world.

Answers to both questionnaires will form the basis for the eventual drafting of the “Instrumentum Laboris,” or “working document” of the 2018 synod, which Baldisseri said ought to be ready at the beginning of next year.

The preparatory document defines youth as being individuals 16-29 years old, but also takes into account that the definition of “young” is different depending on where you’re from.

In a letter from Pope Francis coinciding with the document’s publication, the Pope told youth that “I wanted you to be the center of attention, because you are in my heart.”

He recalled how when he was in Krakow for World Youth Day over the summer, he had asked the youth on several occasions “Can we change things?” to which they responded with a loud, resounding “yes!”

“That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a throw-away culture nor give in to the globalization of indifference,” Francis said, urging young people to “listen to the cry arising from your inner selves!”

“A better world can be built also as a result of your efforts, your desire to change and your generosity,” he said, telling them not to be afraid of the “bold choices” proposed to them by the Holy Spirit and to not delay “when your conscience asks you to take risks in following the Master.”

“The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism,” he said, telling youth not to be shy in making their voices heard, even to their priests.

Pointing to the example of how St. Benedict urged his abbots “to consult, even the young, before any important decision” since “the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best,” Francis said that this is also the case for the upcoming synod.

“My brother bishops and I want even more to work with you for your joy,” he said, and prayed that Mary would “take your hand and guide you to the joy of fully and generously responding to God’s call with the words: ‘Here I am.’”
Taking our Wounds to the Eucharist

Recently a man came to me, asking for help. He carried some deep wounds, not physical wounds, but emotional wounds to his soul. What surprised me initially was that, while he was deeply wounded, he had not been severely traumatized either in childhood or adulthood. He seemed to have just had to absorb the normal bumps and bruises that everyone has to absorb: some belittling, some bullying, never being the favorite, dissatisfaction with his own body, unfairness within his family and siblings, career frustration, unfairness in his workplace, the sense of being chronically ignored, the sense of never being understood and appreciated, and the self-pity and lack of self-confidence that results from this.

But he was a sensitive man and the combination of all these seemingly little things left him, now in late mid-life, unable to be the gracious, happy Elder he wanted to be. Instead, by his own admission, he was chronically caught-up in a certain wounded self-absorption, namely, in a self-centered anxiety that brought with it the sense that life had not been fair to him. Consequently he was forever something focused on self-protection and was resentful of those who could step forward openly in self-confidence and love. "I hate it," he shared, "when I see persons like Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul speak so with such easy self-confidence about how big their hearts are. I always fill with resentment and think: 'Lucky you!' You haven’t had to put up with what I’ve had to put up with in life!"

This man had been through some professional therapy that had helped bring him to a deeper self-understanding, but still left him paralyzed in terms of moving beyond his wounds. "What can I do with these wounds?" he asked.

My answer to him, as for all of us who are wounded, is: Take those wounds to the Eucharist. Every time you go to a Eucharist, stand by an altar, and receive communion, bring your helplessness and paralysis to God, ask him to touch you by your heart, your memory, your bitterness, your lack of self-confidence, your self-absorption, your weaknesses, your impotence. Bring your aching body and heart to God. Express your helplessness in simple, humble words: Touch me. Take my wounds. Take my paranoia. Make me whole. Give me forgiveness. Warm my heart. Give me the strength that I cannot give myself.

Pray this prayer, not just when you are receiving communion and being physically touched by the body of Christ, but especially during the Eucharistic prayer because it is there that we are not just being touched and healed by a person, Jesus, but we are also being touched and healed by a sacred event. This is the part of the Eucharist we generally do not understand, but it is the part of the Eucharist that celebrates transformation and healing from wound and sin. In the Eucharist pray we commemorate the “sacrifice” of Jesus, that is, that event where, as Christian tradition so enigmatically puts it, Jesus was made sin for us. There is a lot in that cryptic phrase. In essence, in his suffering and death, Jesus took on our wounds, our weaknesses, our infidelities, and our sins, died in them, and then through love and trust brought them to wholeness.

Every time we go to Eucharist we are meant to let that transforming event touch us, touch our wounds, our weaknesses, our infidelities, our sin, and our emotional paralysis and bring us to a transformation in wholeness, energy, joy, and love.

The Eucharist is the ultimate healer. There is, I believe, a lot of value in various kinds of physical and emotional therapies, just there is immeasurable value in 12-Step programs and in simply honestly sharing our wounded selves with people we trust. There is, too, I believe, value in a certain willful self-effort, in the challenge contained in Jesus’ adoration to a paralyzed man: Take up your couch and walk! We should not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by hyper-sensitivity and self-pity. God has given us skin to cover our rawest nerves.

But, with that being admitted, we still cannot heal ourselves. Therapy, understanding, loving friends, and disciplined self-effort can take us only so far, and it is not into full healing. Full healing comes from touching and being touched by the sacred. More particularly, as Christians, we believe that this touching involves a touching of the sacred at that place where it has most particularly touched our own wounds, helplessness, weaknesses, and sin, that place, where God “was made sin for us”. That place is the event of the death and rising of Jesus and that event is made available to us, to touch and enter into, in the Eucharistic prayer and in receiving the body of Christ in communion.

We need to bring our wounds to the Eucharist because it is there that the sacred love and energy that lie at the ground of all that breathes can cauterize and heal all that is not whole within us.

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

Catholic Families Student Contest still accepting submissions for monetary prizes

By Sarah DeMott

While the deadline is fast approaching there is still time to encourage your child or student to participate in the third annual Catholic Families Student Contest. Submission deadline is February 15.

Raelynn Stein, a theology teacher at St. Augustine Cathedral School in Kalamazoo, is thankful to have the contest as a tool to use in conjunction with theology curriculum.

“I love that my students have had the opportunity to participate in the contests offered by the Diocese of Kalamazoo,” said Stein. “The theology curriculum is rich and these contests provide a practical application for knowledge gained in school. It allows students to showcase their various talents in a way that expresses real world application of the knowledge. The families at St. Augustine have benefitted too through rich conversations about how they are living out their faith.”

This year’s contest theme is “The Evangelizing Family”. One focus of the contest, according to Socorro Truchan, Associate Director of the Domestic Church, is to showcase the talent in our Catholic youth in the areas of music, art, writing and film.

Top winners in each category and grade division will receive monetary awards up to $100 made possible by the Knights of Columbus. Winners will be announced before the end of the school year. For more contest information, including submission guidelines and contest rules, visit: www.diolkazo.org/student-art-contest.

Brenda Mescher (right), principal of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Coldwater, received last year’s award for school with the most student submissions and a monetary award of $100.

Peaceful, prayerful, effective 40 Days for Life campaign begins on Ash Wednesday

40 Days for Life will kick-off on March 1st, Ash Wednesday. The campaign is a peaceful, highly-focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities and grassroots educational outreach.

The campaign will feature a peaceful 40-day prayer vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of Kalamazoo at 4201 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo. All prayer vigil participants are asked to sign a statement of peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

“40 Days for Life has generated proven life-saving results since its beginning in 2004 in Bryan/College Station, Texas,” said Shawn Carney, president of 40 Days for Life. “During 19 previous coordinated campaigns, 675 communities have participated in this effort. More than 725,000 people — representing some 19,000 churches — have committed to pray and fast. And we know of at least 12,668 unborn children whose lives were spared from abortion during 40 Days for Life campaigns.”

For information about 40 Days for Life in Kalamazoo, visit: www.40daysforlife.com/Kalamazoo or contact Brenda Sinkovitz at 40DaysKalamazoo@gmail.com or 269-254-9337.

SeaLand Air Cruise to the 4 Corners of the World

Join Fr. Robert Cregan on an exciting adventure on the Danube, sailing to charming cities and villages.

Cruise Date: Dec. 2, 2017
Starting at: $2,650
Airfare included

Please join SeaLand Air Travel for an informational meeting:
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 @ 6 p.m.
La Cantina Ristorante
139 West Michigan Ave. Paw Paw, MI 49079
Call today — SeaLand Air Travel 269-657-5529
Retiro Diocesano para las Quinceañeras y Encuentro Diocesano Pre-Matrimonial
Por Veronica Rodriguez

Retiros Diocesanos para la preparación de Quinceañerías
Para las jóvenes que cumplen quince años y para sus padres, los retiros diocesanos para la preparación de quinceañerías en el 2017 son de 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. las siguientes fechas:
Sábado, Abril 8, 2017 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo;
Sábado, Junio 10, 2017 en Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford;
Sábado, Julio 22, 2017 en St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo;

El objetivo del Retiro Diocesano de Quinceañera es de reflexionar sobre las tradiciones religiosas, la virtud de la familia y las responsabilidades sociales que la quinceañera de hoy en día abarca. Al igual que reflexionar sobre las responsabilidades cristianas del joven de hoy. Recuerden que primero deben de hablar con su párroco (por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la quinceañera). También recuerden que deben participar en la formación que proporcione la parroquia. El Retiro Diocesano para las Quinceañeras y sus padres es un complemento a esa preparación que ofrece la parroquia. Los temas que se tratan son: Origen de la Fiesta de Quinceañera; significado de los símbolos y liturgia; los sacramentos; responsabilidad cristiana y social; y otros temas de importancia para los jóvenes y la familia.

Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial Dioceso
Para las parejas que se van a casar o para las parejas de matrimonio que quieren un día de reflexión, las fechas de los Encuentros Pre-Matrimoniales Diocesanos en el 2017 son de 10:00 a.m.-3:00 pm las siguientes fechas:
Sábado, Marzo 4, 2017 en Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo;
Sábado, Mayo 13, 2017 en Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford;
Sábado, Agosto 12, 2017 en San Felipe de Jesús, Fennville;
Sábado, Octubre 7, 2017 en Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo.

Las parejas que desean casarse, recuerden que primero deben hablar con su párroco (por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la boda). También recuerden que deben participar en la formación que proporcione la parroquia. El Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial Diocesano es un complemento a esa preparación que ofrece la parroquia. Los temas que se tratan son: El sacramento del matrimonio; el llamado del matrimonio; matrimonio modelo de comunidad en el mundo; oración; diálogo conyugal; los hijos; la salud; economía del matrimonio y otros temas de importancia. Para más información, pónganse en contacto con su parroquia o pueden llamar a la oficina Diocesana al 269-903-0197.

V Encuentro del Ministerio Hispano
Discípulos Misioneros: Testigos del Amor de Dios
Como hemos estado informando el V Encuentro del Ministerio Hispano/Latino comienza en el 2017 con Encuentros Parroquiales en los meses de marzo a junio. El V Encuentro es un proceso de reflexión y acción eclesial que invita a todos los católicos en los Estados Unidos a una intensa actividad misionera, consulta, desarrollo de liderazgo e identificación de buenas prácticas ministeriales en el espíritu de la Nueva Evangelización. La meta es de discernimiento en las que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda responder mejor a la presencia de los Hispanos/Latinos, y fortalecer formas en que los Hispanos/Latinos respondan como discípulos misioneros al llamado de la Nueva Evangelización, sirviendo a toda la Iglesia. Los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos han puesto como una prioridad en su Plan Estratégico del 2017-2020 este proceso del V Encuentro del Ministerio Hispano/Latino. El pasado noviembre se tuvo una reunión al nivel diocesano para formar los equipos parroquiales y el equipo diocesano. Nos reuniremos de nuevo el 4 de marzo de 9:00am – 1:00 pm para estudiar la guía y el diario de consulta del V Encuentro. Si usted desea participar como líder en el proceso de este Encuentro, comuníquese con su párroco o con Veronica Rodriguez a vrodriguez@diokzoo.org.

Calendario/Calendar

FEBRUARY 2017
FEBRUARY 2017

Invierno En El Alma
Por las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

Muchas veces la oscuridad en la que vivimos interiormente es la que no nos permiten ver los caminos y es por eso que nos da temor salir. La oscuridad a veces es buena porque nos hace buscar una luz para iluminar nuestro camino. Los problemas pueden nublar nuestra mente, pero no permitan que nunca nublen tu corazón. El poco recibir el calor del sol de Justicia que es Jesús nos puede hacer perder la vitamina del espíritu. El poco mantener una relación con Dios puede quitarnos las vitaminas del Espíritu y hacer que el invierno del alma sea peor, no podemos olvidar que él es la alegría, que Él es gozo y que en Él está la vida eterna.

Hay ocasiones en que poco hacemos por nosotros mismos, ya sea porque no tenemos ganas o estamos deprimidos pero lo mejor que pudiéramos hacer en estos casos es dar gracias a Dios por lo bello, de la primavera, por los frutos del verano y por los colores del otoño, El invierno nos prepara para una buena cosecha; es tiempo de prepararnos para vivir el invierno, pero la mayor herramienta depende de cómo queramos vivir esta etapa. Sabemos invitar a que tomes un segundo para respirar y siente que debes vivir con intensidad como si fuera esta temporada la primera o la última.

Tal vez no puedes cambiar lo que está pasando, pero si puedes cambiar la forma de vivir el presente. Ve la vida con los ojos del amor, no pierdas tu tiempo con la tristeza, aprende a vivir en los momentos buenos y en los momentos difíciles, aprende a reírte de la vida para que la vida no se ría de ti, goza cada instante de la vida y no dudes ni un solo momento porque solo te pertenece el ahora.

Ponte de fiesta por qué Dios te da una nueva oportunidad y es bueno que no la desaproveches por qué no sabes si vendrá otra. Vive la vida intensamente, vive la aventura de la fe y recuerda que Dios nos hizo para ser felices.

Vence la tristeza, eres un hijo de Dios que lucha y que alcanza la victoria con la Oración vence las dificultades del invierno, como es la depresión, la tristeza, la soledad y la rutina de lo mismo.

“Todo se pasa solo Dios basta” Santa Teresa de Jesús.

Plato de Arroz de Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

El miércoles 1º de marzo se celebra el miércoles de ceniza y se da inicio a la Cuaresma. Muchos de nosotros acostumbramos ir en familia a recibir las cenizas. En ese día también están disponibles en las parroquias unas cajitas llamadas “Plato de Arroz”.

Plato de Arroz es el programa de Cuaresma de Catholic Relief Services para las familias y comunidades de fe en los Estados Unidos que quieren poner su fe en acción. A través de Plato de Arroz, se invita a los participantes a escuchar historias sobre sus hermanos y hermanas necesitados en todo el mundo, y dedicar sus oraciones, ayuno y donativos de Caridad para cambiar la vida de los que sufren en la pobreza en diferentes países del mundo. Los participantes realizan su jornada durante los 40 días de la Cuaresma. En las cajitas de cartón, su familia va depositando la cantidad que desea donar y se devuelven las cajitas a la parroquia el domingo de Ramos, 9 de abril. Este dinero es coleccionado para Catholic Relief Services para ayudar a los pobres en todo el mundo. Se llama “Plato de Arroz” porque si todos colaboramos, de arroz podemos alimentar a centenares de personas.

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

Here & There

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

BISHOP’S CALENDAR

Feb. 10: Noon—World Day of the Sick Mass, Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo

Feb. 11: Celebration of the Mass, at 3 p.m. — Mass for The Presence Retreat, Hackett Catholic Prep

Feb. 12 – 21: Pastoral trip to North American Pontifical College to visit diocesan seminarians

Wednesday, March 1: Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, 12:10 p.m.

Activities around the diocese


Feb. 17-18: Healthy Congregations Workshop, Transformations Spirituality Center. Cost is $125. Contact: 269-381-6290 x327

Feb. 24-26: Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, Kalamazoo. Contact Maggie Walsh at (616)-340-1824, (800) 800-8824 (Toll free in Michigan only). All inquiries are confidential. Financial assistance is available.

March 2 – St. Mark and St. Mary Parishes in Niles are sponsoring time of spirituality and prayer with Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB. Thursday, March 2 will begin with Mass at 6 p.m. Friday, March 3 will have Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m. with Mass at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 4 will have Confessions at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 5 is Mass at 10 a.m. All events will be held at St. Mark Parish, Niles.

March 4: Catholic Family Scouting Celebration, St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek, 1-5 p.m. Cost is $10 per family. Contact: Tim McNamara, tcmnamara@diokzoo.org

March 4-5: Annual Diocesan Open Retreat, “Divine Injury: Engaging Goodness, Beauty and Truth in the Passion of Jesus”, Transformations Retreat Center. Early registration is due Feb. 22 – $100 for double occupancy, $125 for single occupancy and $80 for commuters. Contact: Jane Bodway, jgoodway@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0147

March 10-12: Young Adult Retreat, “Perspectives on the Passion”, Bair Lake Bible Camp, Jones. Cost is $40 per participant. Contact: Tim McNamara, tcmnamara@diokzoo.org

March 25-26: Diocesan Confirmation Retreat, Gulf Lake Ministries, Hickory Corners. Cost is $100 per person. Please visit http://www.diokzoo.org/confirmation-retreat or contact Jamin Herold (jherold@diokzoo.org) or Tim McNamara (tcmnamara@diokzoo.org) for registration forms and more information.

SACRED LITURGY

KCCW “Lived Lent Fully” Mark your calendars for the KCCW’s Lenten Day of Spiritual Renewal on March 8. The day will begin with check in and light refreshments at 8:15 a.m. and conclude around 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 4000 Bart Hall in Kalamazoo. Cost is $20 and includes lunch and refreshment. For more information or to register by March 3, contact Sue Annis, 269-217-3678

THEME: Waiting in joyful hope. Please see sidebar for more information. Register: thepresencekalamazoo.org.

KZoo Catholic Sports Leagues (KCSL) — offers a year-round to participate in sports. Featuring a variety of sports over 6 – 8-week long stretches, KCSL is for anybody looking to play, including those in college. The local sport is volleyball which began last month (January 21) and runs through March. This league plays at St. Monica Parish (530 W. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, on Saturdays from 12-3 p.m. For more information, please check out KCSL’s FaceBook page at Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues.
National Marriage Week

National Marriage Week is Feb. 7-14. For resources on how to promote and strengthen the Sacrament of marriage, visit foryourmarriage.org.

Catholic Charities hosts “Mission Possible” tours

In any given day Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo agencies’ ministry work meets those in need. They provide shelter for a homeless teenager, a caring home for a senior, needed resources for a young mother-to-be and expert counseling for those facing challenges. Do you know of someone who may need help? Or want to learn more about the good work of the Church? Catholic Charities is hosting a series of one-hour “Mission Possible” tours at each of its facilities to better inform the community of the agency’s work and the many lives changed through its ministry. All are invited. See following for upcoming scheduled tours:

Caring Network — 1441 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo
February 23, March 20, April 26, May 25 — 6:30-7:30 PM
The Ark Shelter — 990 West Kilgore, Kalamazoo
February 8, March 7, April 13, May 15 — 12:00-1:00 PM
Baraga Manor Apartments — 301 Washington, Otsego
March 29 — 12:00-1:00 PM

Encounter the mission and vision through a tour and testimonials. RSVP for any Mission Possible Tour by contacting Catholic Charities 269-381-9800.

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Life

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Life
In observance of the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, people from around the diocese and Christians from various churches in Kalamazoo joined together on Sunday, January 22 in Bronson Park. Bishop Bradley, along with Pastor Paul Maumann from St. Michael Lutheran Church and Pastor David Sidwell from Immanuel Lutheran Church, led an ecumenical prayer service. Participants were invited to bring a donation of diapers and baby wipes to support the ministry of Caring Network and Alternatives of Kalamazoo. A reception in the Crowley Center at St. Augustine Cathedral followed the service.

More than 200 attend Holy Hour concert in Marshall

More than 200 attend Holy Hour concert in Marshall
Pastors have many talents and gifts and Rev. Craig Lusk, an accomplished organist, played for more than 200 parishioners and in a special Holy Hour January 4th at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Marshall. Fr. Craig Lusk hosted the event playing meditative Christmas hymns on the organ. Don. Ken Snyder, St. John Parish, Albion, celebrated the Holy Hour accompanied by the St. Mary adult choir under the direction of Br. Benedict Robert. Guest soloist James Oliver performed his composition Christ the King. The Holy Hour ended in candlelight as the crowd engaged in singing Silent Night before the crèche.

Snapchat’s new guidelines will restrict sexually suggestive content

Los Angeles (CNA) — In response to criticism and a lawsuit, Snapchat announced yesterday that it was updating its policies on its Discover section, which features syndicated snap stories from select publishers that are viewed by more than 100 million users every month.

The new guidelines more explicitly restrict news and photos that lack editorial value, and clarify ambiguous language regarding policies on stories containing nudity, profanity and violence. Snapchat also created a tool that allowed publishers to prevent users under 18 from seeing certain content. The company has also reserved the right to block inappropriate content from users under 18.

Social media experts told the New York Times that the changes could have a positive effect on potential advertisers, who now may be more willing to place stories in the cleaned-up section.

The changes came in response to a class action lawsuit that was brought against the company in July which alleged that the Discover section intentionally exposed minors “to harmful, offensive, prurient and sexually offensive content without warning minors or their parents that they would be exposed to such explicit content,” according to a report from the New York Times. The lawsuit cited examples of offensive content, including a Buzzfeed story that featured sexualized Disney characters, and a story from Cosmopolitan about an artist who let others touch her inappropriately.

The lawsuit was dismissed in November, as both sides agreed to settle.

Also at this time, a separate petition was started against Snapchat by Malissa Richardson, a Millennial Snapchat user who said she was tired of seeing the “sexually explicit headlines and pictures” that “bombarded” the Discover section of her feed.

The campaign, entitled #NoThanksSnapchat, rapidly caught on, and easily surpassed its goal of 10,000 signatures overnight. The petition currently has more than 26,000 signatures.

Fight the New Drug, an organization that fights pornography addiction among young people, applauded Richardson’s efforts and Snapchat’s new guidelines in a recent blog post: “Moral of the story? Never be afraid to speak out and fight for real love, no matter what. You never know what kind of change it can create.”