Catholic and Christian leaders form Kalamazoo United

Inspired in part by the football team partnership between Hackett Catholic Prep and Kalamazoo Christian High School a local Portage Christian minister has partnered with Bishop Bradley beginning an effort to bring all Christians together to show unity. Next year, October 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the reformation. Pastor Jeff Wenke, The Bridge Church, Portage, Mich., has a vision of a large-scale event with thousands of Christians coming together to pray and be united in their devotion to Jesus.

“The 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we want to bring together all Christians, Protestants and Catholics, in honor of Jesus’ prayer expressed in John 17. A unified event of this scope has never happened in Kalamazoo,” said Wenke.

October. The first of the four prayer events was held on Sunday, October 23rd at Kalamazoo Christian High School. Future events will be held at Hackett Catholic Prep, The Bridge Church, and in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo.

All events will culminate in the signature gathering on Sunday October 29, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo. “The prayer-filled event will be free and open to everyone,” added Wenke. “Our dream is that the planning and prayerful process will forge partnerships and friendships between faith leaders in our community. We believe the event itself will have a catalytic impact on the community of Christians in our city.”

“Planning for the 2017 event began in late September as Bishop Bradley hosted a series of informal gatherings of local ministers at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in downtown Kalamazoo.

“I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm and dialogue from our Protestant brothers and sisters for this effort toward a show of our unity,” said Bishop Bradley.

To begin to build awareness and commitment to the event the committee is planning four prayer events during the next year leading up to the main event to be held next October. The first of the four prayer events was held on Sunday, October 23rd at Kalamazoo Christian High School. Future events will be held at Hackett Catholic Prep, The Bridge Church, and in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo.

Jubilee Year of Mercy officially closes on November 20th

In the 700-year tradition of Holy Years the Church is bringing the 27th such Holy Year to a close. The Jubilee Year of Mercy officially began last December 8, 2015 and will close this month when Pope Francis closes the Holy Door on November 20th. Msgr. Osborn will celebrate the closing Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on November 13th at 11:30 a.m.

In his bull of indication, Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy) Pope Francis wrote that the goal of this year was: “To gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives.”

At the diocesan level programs and events were planned months in advance to accommodate the recommendations given in the papal document. A Holy Door was designated at St. Augustine Cathedral which has been host to many individual and group visitors for the past 12 months. Other events included Bishop Bradley’s talk on the Year of Mercy held at three deaneries; four Days of Recollection for all the priests in the Diocese; the recently held New Evangelization Convocation (see related article this page); and the Diocese’s presence at county fairs this past summer. During the recent New Evangelization Convocation Bishop Bradley reminded participants why the Holy Father called this special year, one of only four that have been designated “extraordinary.”

“The primary role of the Holy Father is to preserve the unity of the church throughout the world, and that is one of the primary reasons why Pope Francis has called for this great Year of Mercy,” said Bishop Bradley. “This year is to remind us of our need to seek God’s mercy for our sins and to encourage us to be agents of God’s mercy to others as we work to end divisions in our relationships and to foster corporal and spiritual works of mercy for those in need. And, of course, that is also my primary role as bishop — to preserve and foster the unity of the Church.”

In order to accommodate more opportunity for reconciliation many parishes expanded hours for the sacrament. St. Augustine Cathedral will continue it’s expanded schedule throughout the month as follows:

- Expanded confession times are now in effect through Sunday, November 20, 2016: Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; and Saturday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For information on visiting the Holy Door for pilgrimage visits please call the
Financial investigation continues at two parishes

The parish communities of St. Mary Assumption, Bronson and St. Barbara Parish, Colon, were informed on October 9 of a financial investigation independent of any accounting firm at the request of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, completed a forensic audit of both St. Mary’s Assumption, Bronson, and St. Barbara, Colon, which details questionable financial transactions and practices from 2010-2016. A day after receiving the audit report, Bishop Paul J. Bradley accepted the resignation of Rev. Richard Fritz, 69, as pastor on Thursday, October 6, 2016 and temporarily suspended his priestly faculties (i.e. his ability to exercise public ministry).

Very Reverend Mark Vyvyan, Dean of the Eastern Deanery and pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater and Our Lady of Fatima, Union City, assumes the role of pastor of St. Mary’s Assumption Parish (which is part of the Parish Collaborative effective this past July 1, 2016).

The Diocese began its internal review of the matter after suspected irregularities were reported in the spring of 2016. In June of 2016, immediately after establishing that there were irregularities, Fr. Fritz’s access to parish funds was removed. The alleged financial mismanagement of the parish funds of St. Mary Assumption, Bronson and St. Barbara, Colon, relates to suspected inappropriate checks distributed between 2010-2016. The Diocese is currently reviewing financial records of both parishes prior to 2010 to identify additional potential losses.

The Michigan State Police Department is currently conducting its own investigation. The Diocese has fully cooperated with civil authorities in this case and will continue to do so.

Michigan bishop among those on candidate list for USCCB president and vice president

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will elect their next president and vice-president at the upcoming Plenary Assembly in Baltimore on November 14 and 15. The elections are due to take place during the general assembly.


The president and vice president are elected to three-year terms, which begin at the conclusion of the meeting. At that time, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, will complete their terms as president and vice president, respectively.

During the meeting, the bishops will also vote for new chairmen of the following five USCCB committees: Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, Committee on International Justice and Peace, and the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

Pastoral Letter excerpt:

“...we want our diocese to be 100 percent committed to accomplishing the mission of the Church; that we want to be faithful to the vision that Jesus gave when He established the Church and commissioned Apostles to go forth and begin the work of the Church with these words: Full authority has been given to Me both in Heaven and on earth; go therefore and make disciples of all the nations; Baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

There is no bigger dream possible than that; this vision, which is Jesus’ vision, shoots beyond the stars into eternity. My vision — I hope your vision as well — is: 1) that we will make the work of the Church here in these nine counties open to the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit; 2) that we will personally embrace the part of this vision that uniquely belongs to each of us through our common baptismal vocation and “call to holiness”; 3) that the Church in our 28 Collaboratives will be “on fire” with love for Jesus and that we will be even more effective in reaching out to love our neighbors with Jesus’ love; 4) that we will live with one another in Catholic charity, with mercy and with justice; and 5) finally, as we become renewed in our faith as Catholics and in our love for Jesus, that we will fully embrace our responsibility as joyful disciples of Jesus by not just being “consumers” of the Church’s ministries and sacraments, but that we can be “marketers” or “promoters” — truly, evangelizers of the Good News of Jesus to all the world — or at least to the part of the world in which we live.

Download copies of Bishop Bradley’s pastoral letter in English and Spanish on www.diokzoo.org; audio recording available too. A limited supply of print copies are available. Contact the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, Diocese of Kalamazoo; 269-903-0163.

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Continuing the Year of Mercy

I would like to reflect with you a bit on the Jubilee Year of Mercy which will soon conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King. From my perspective, of all the special “years” that Pope Francis, and Pope Benedict before him, and previous Holy Fathers have called the entire Church to observe in recent years this Jubilee Year of Mercy has been the most rich and has resonated very clearly with so many of us. How timely and much-needed this theme of mercy has been for all of us, along with the encouragement to live out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy during this year. As we all realize, this has been a very difficult and challenging year in the world around us. It has been a year of tragedy due to a number of terrorist attacks, a year of catastrophic natural disasters, and a year of very divisive racial unrest here in our country, as well as a year of unprecedented political dishimony, resulting in the recent election, the results of which many are all still trying to deal with and accept. So, having the ability to spiritually focus on the rich and abundant gift of God’s unconditional love and mercy has been an enormous spiritual blessing for the world.

In our Diocese, I am grateful for the many ways we celebrated this Jubilee Year, beginning with the opening of the Holy Doors at our Cathedral Church of St. Augustine. Over the course of this year, many pilgrimages have been made from around our Diocese both by parish groups as well as individuals, to avail themselves of the special indulgences attached to these Holy Doors, and the sacramental graces flowing from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our priests have come together four different times this year for Afternoons of Prayer and Reflection around the theme of God’s Mercy. Many of our county fairs saw the added presence of booths sponsored by our Diocese to promote the wonderful gifts of the Church, and in particular to reach out to others for acts of mercy and reconciliation. And I am very much aware that all 59 of our parishes have also sponsored wonderful programs and special events, along with increased opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance during this Jubilee Year.

As you look back on this special Year of Mercy, what are some of your own “highlights”? Have you experienced God’s mercy anew? Have you been an agent of God’s mercy through acts of reconciliation to others, perhaps by ending a long-held division within one of your friendships or relationships? It is not too late. Just because the Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to an end on November 20th, that does not mean that we cannot continue this time of new awareness of our need for God’s mercy in our own lives. In fact, we should use this Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin anew in our own lives an ongoing sense of how much we need God’s mercy, and how much “like God” we can be when we are “agents of God’s mercy” to others.

Of course, the most amazing aspect of God’s mercy is that it is never-ending and ever-lasting. There is really no reason to stop the practices of mercy on November 20th. In fact, given the most recent year we have experienced with so much tragedy and disharmony, we need to adopt a more merciful attitude now more than ever.

Last year I suggested as we began the Year of Mercy that we could all adopt the “4 P’s”: Prayer, Pilgrimage, Personal Attitudes, and Practice (see December 2015/January 2016 edition). I would like to slightly update those “4 P’s” and continue using these spiritual methods as a helpful fragment for how we choose to live out our faith, and as Pope Francis has encouraged us, to be so steeped in God’s love and mercy that “we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God.”

Let me suggest that practicing these “4 P’s” can continue to be helpful to us as we begin the new liturgical year on the First Sunday of Advent, and for years to come.

Prayer: We are very familiar with the Flight Attendants giving us safety advice to buckle our seat belts, know where the exits are, call attention to the seats which can also become life preservers if needed, and of course, that if oxygen is required, we need to put on the oxygen masks that will automatically appear; and for that particular need, the Flight Attendant always makes it clear that if we are flying with someone else in our company, that we first of all must make sure that our own oxygen mask is on, so that we are better able to help those who may have a need around us. That is wonderful spiritual advice as well. We must focus on our own personal relationship with Jesus and be sure that we are strong in that relationship with Him, that we are availing ourselves of his life-saving “oxygen” of His mercy, and then we are better able to extend Jesus’ love and mercy to others. Recently, I received as a special gift what is called a “Spiritual Bouquet” from our Diocesan Pastoral Staff. If you have ever received something similar — the promise of someone else’s prayers for you — you know what a great sense of strength and support that can be. That is what we need to do, first for ourselves, but then for everyone else around us to help them to come to know, love and experience Jesus’ merciful love.

Pilgrimage: Even though the Holy Doors will be closed and the opportunity for special indulgences attached will also end very soon, we can still go on pilgrimages to other holy places around us. When you’re planning your vacation times for the coming year, why not consider planning a trip to one of the many holy shrines and special spiritual places that exist all around us. For example, right here in Kalamazoo, at Nazareth Center, in the Holy Family
Collection to keep people warm this winter to be held Nov. 19 and 20

The Diocesan Heating Assistance Program (DHAP) provides emergency heating assistance to persons in need residing within the nine counties of the Diocese of Kalamazoo ( Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St Joseph and Van Buren counties). The program begins the first Monday in January and ends March 30th, 2017 (or until all funds are exhausted). The program helps those in need defray heating expenses and obtain heating resources (fuel oil, natural gas, electricity, firewood).

The DHAP is funded through a special collection which will be taken November 19 and 20 – with funds contributed from the 59 parishes and missions across the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Parishes and Missions may keep 20 percent of the funds collected for local use, serving the poor and vulnerable. The remaining 90 percent is contributed to the DHAP Fund and given out for family need.

Last winter the Diocesan Heating Assistance Program assisted 263 families (with a total of 466 adults and 330 children) with heating assistance funds. In total, almost $58,000 was given to those in need. Seven DHAP volunteers oversaw the disbursement process at the Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo offices and an additional 52 volunteers assisted with the collection of funds at parishes and missions across the Diocese. Despite challenging economic times, parishioners’ generosity helped those in need stay warm in an unbearably cold winter.

The Bishop’s Perspective

Continued from page 3

Chapel of the Sisters of St. Joseph, there are wonderful relics of the saints, and a replica of the Holy Stairs in Rome — the only replica outside of Rome — which the bishop will also be given.

Personal Attitudes: This is something that each one of us is all too aware that we must make a part of our daily challenge. How do we turn away from sin and live a life of virtue? That is our daily responsibility. As Pope Francis challenges all of us, we too are called to be the “face of the Father’s Mercy” to one another, just as Jesus is for the whole world. While it might sound like a cliché, the question: “What would Jesus do?” is one that we should ask ourselves every day in regard to the choices that we make each day. We should always try to imagine every encounter we have each day as encounters with Jesus, since every person is “made in the image and likeness of God”. Perhaps that constant effort to make ourselves aware can help us not only in what we say and do, but how we say it and do it.

Practice: Since November is the month focusing on one of the spiritual works of mercy, namely praying for the faithful departed, we should also continue to practice all the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. If you need a reminder, they are:

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:
- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Visit the sick
- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Prayer for the living and the dead

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, my prayer is that this Jubilee Year of Mercy is coming to a close this month not only will have brought you more graces and blessings upon you and all our Diocese but that we will continue being witnesses and agents of God’s love and mercy in all that we say and do. As Pope Francis urged us: “With our eyes fixed on Jesus and His merciful gaze, we experience the love of the most Holy Trinity.” Let us all keep this focus on that gaze so that we can be transformed and ultimately be able to bring the healing and merciful love of Jesus to our broken and divided world.

God bless you, now and always.
Church Clarifies Teaching on Cremation

Emphasizes that ashes should be put in a sacred place, not transformed into jewelry or other commemorative memorabilia.

An Instruction of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith regarding burial of the dead and conservation of ashes in case of cremation, entitled Ad resurgendum cum Christo was presented last month in the Holy See Press Office, by Cardinal Gerhard Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; its Consultant Father Angel Rodríguez Luno and Father Serge Thomas Bonino, O.P., Secretary of the International Theological Commission.

Cardinal Müller said that, because cremation is becoming more widespread, it will be considered as an ordinary practice. This development, he noted, is accompanied by another phenomenon: “the conservation of the ashes in a domestic environment, their conservation in commemorative memory or their dispersion in nature.”

Therefore, the specific issue of this document refers to the conservation of the ashes, without forgetting that “the Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom be kept of burying the bodies of the deceased,” although cremation “is not prohibited unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian Doctrine.”

In fact, a canonical normative on the preservation of the ashes did not exist; therefore, some Episcopal Conferences requested the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for guidelines on how and where the funerary urn should be kept, he said.

Cardinal Müller reiterated: “the Church continues to recommend insistently that the bodies of the deceased be buried in a cemetery or other sacred place.” Moreover, burial “is the most fitting way to express faith and hope in bodily resurrection.”

He acknowledged that there can be legitimate reasons to choose cremation, but the ashes must normally be kept in a sacred place, namely, in a cemetery or sacred place; it is necessary to avoid pantheistic or naturalistic ambiguities; therefore, the dispersion of ashes in the air, on the earth, in water or other way, or to convert the ashes into commemorative memorials is not permitted.”

With this new Instruction, noted the Cardinal, we wish to contribute “so that Christian faithful have an ulterior awareness of their dignity.” He concluded by reminding that it is necessary to “evangelize the meaning of death in the light of faith in the Risen Christ.”

Responding to ZENIT, Father Bonino pointed out that the process of cremation is not natural as burial is, because technology intervenes. “It is a process in which man attempts to have control over life and death.” It has something of the brutal, because it destroys the body immediately without giving close individuals the possibility of engaging in the process of acceptance over time, as in a sort of privatization of death.

Father Bonino also pointed out that in the newly published Instruction, the first part on the burial of the deceased must not be forgotten and that the intention was to “reiterate the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for preferring the burial of bodies,” which the Church “recommends insistently.”

Father Rodríguez Luno added that the document reflects the Church’s care so that the bodies of the faithful deceased “inspire respect and charity and can express appropriately the Christian meaning of death and hope in the resurrection of the body.”

Source: Zenit.org

Sports and faith go hand-in-hand for young adult group in Kalamazoo

By Jay Cessna

Would Jesus be able to run a route? Look good on the pitch? Hit a curveball? Know what ultimate frisbee even is? It’ll never be known if the Lord could play sports but his followers are very keen to all sports. Each week this fall the young adults in the Kalamazoo Catholic Sports League (KCSL) meet up together with God through sports. I guess the most relevant is frisbee even is? It’ll never be known if the Lord could play sports but his followers are very keen to all sports. Each week this fall the young adults in the Kalamazoo Catholic Sports League (KCSL) meet up together with God through sports.

On Saturday October 22nd the Kalamazoo Catholic Sports League played flag football. KCSL Co-founder Dan Ebenhoeh participated as a wide receiver. According to Dan, joining the KCSL and playing is free (exception to bowling which one would have to pay for their own game and shoes.).

“KCSL has come a long way,” Dan Ebenhoeh added. “What started as an idea with eight friends turned into something that friends turn into offering another activity for all young adults.”

When it came to the relationship between sports and God as well as his connection with the KCSL, Dan added this insight: “Sports is just a means to use our bodies, the community itself brings us closer together with God through sports. I guess the most rewarding thing about KCSL is the chance to see young adults openly playing and praying together.”

This group is focused community through activity. Not looking for competition of any sorts, KCSL is more focused on building a stronger community through building better athletes. It’s not so much a league as it is a means for friends to hang out, socialize, build on another one’s religious faith and community. KCSL is open for everyone. No matter your athleticism, level of faith, familiarity with the sport or consistency in your availability, KCSL will welcome you with open arms, invite you to their Facebook page Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues, and then tell you to go long.

To keep up with young adult activities in the diocese subscribe to “What’s Brewing” enewsletter. Visit: www.diozkoo.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry-and-contact-Tom-McNamara, tmamnara@diozkoo.org; 269-903-0139.

The Other Six Days

Amazing Grace

It’s no secret that my older brother Patrick plays the bagpipes. Actually, his entire neighborhood knows about his hobby by virtue of the weekly practice sessions he conducts on his back porch. Bagpipes aren’t an indoor instrument.

One Saturday in late fall, he was having trouble figuring out the fingering for Amazing Grace, which led to quite a few repetitions of the melody with all the drones belowing until one of the neighbors had had enough for the day, and politely said so over the fence. Patrick apologized, packed his instrument into its case, and drove twenty miles away to the family lake cottage. The neighbors on both sides of the property were Chicago natives and wouldn’t appear again until spring, so the bagpipes were unpacked and the practice resumed with little risk of bothering anyone. It was a perfect place and perfect day to set the melody free over the expanse of water.

Several weeks later, a story circulated around the lake and eventually found its way to Patrick.

A longtime resident of the lake from across the bay had been living under hospice care for several weeks. He breathed his last with his wife and family surrounding his bed, peacefully going on ahead to an even more beautiful place than he was leaving. The death certificate was signed and the funeral home was called. They sent a van with two attendants who transferred the gentleman to a gurney and wheeled him out the door. As the family followed the stretcher into the autumn morning, the strains of Amazing Grace swelled across the water. The attendants, started, glanced at each other, and stopped in their tracks. Everyone’s gaze searched the shores of the lake looking for the source, but there didn’t seem to be anyone about.

The procession paused for the entire length of the hymn. When the last echoes faded away, the family smiled through their tears and finished the walk to the van.

A bothered neighbor, and a piper unaware of how God was using him, together combined with God’s perfect timing to bestow amazing mercy.
En Camino Hacia el V Encuentro – Parte 2

Como habíamos informado en el artículo anterior, los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos han puesto como una prioridad en su Plan Estratégico del 2017-2020 el proceso del V Encuentro del Ministerio Hispano/Latino. El V Encuentro promete ser otra experiencia renovadora que ofrezca a la Iglesia la clara, el entusiasmo y los medios que necesita para responder más adecuadamente a la presencia hispana en el espíritu de la Nueva Evangelización.

¿Qué es 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.

¿Por qué se necesita un V Encuentro? La mayoría de la población emergente de los hispanos constituye el 60% de todos los Católicos menores de 18 años en los Estados Unidos; para alcanzar más de 20,000 líderes hispanos/latinos interculturalmente competentes; a expandir el espacio de crecimiento inclusivo del liderazgo y la respuesta ministerial en parroquias, diócesis, escuelas e instituciones Católicas; a comprometer a un gran segmento de hispanos/latinos respondan como discípulos misioneros al llamado de la Nueva Evangelización, sirviendo a toda la iglesia.

Los objetivos son: llamar a todos los católicos en los Estados Unidos a ser misioneros auténticos y alegres que sean testigos del amor de Dios con una voz profética y empoderarlos a asumir su propio desarrollo humano.

La Meta del V Encuentro es discernir formas en las que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda responder mejor a la presencia de los Hispanics/Latinos, y potenciar formas en que los Hispanics/Latinos respondan como discípulos misioneros al llamado de la Nueva Evangelización, sirviendo a toda la iglesia.

Las Virtudes en la Familia

por Sra. Socorro Truchan

La familia es el lugar donde se aprende a vivir las grandes virtudes; el lugar querido por Dios para formar al ser humano; el lugar donde nos instruyeron para ser personas; el lugar donde aprendemos a amar y a ser amados, a ser generosos, fieles, honestos y responsables.

La Dignidad: La vida en familia es la gran oportunidad para que los padres inculquen tanto el respeto a la dignidad de las demás personas, como el respeto a la dignidad propia.

El Bien: El bien es no el que me conviene o no me conviene, lo que me gusta o no me gusta, lo que la mayoría opina o lo que todos hacen. Lo bueno, lo que siempre buscamos para encontrar la felicidad, no obedece al capricho momentáneo de un individuo o de un grupo, sino que tiene sus raíces profundas en el orden de la naturaleza, si hablamos humana-mente.

La Honestidad: Es honesto, el que actúa siempre conforme a la voluntad divina y conforme a su propia conciencia. ¿Qué es ser honesto? En la familia aprendemos a ser honestos. Son los padres quienes, con su ejemplo, enseñan a vivir este valor tan necesario para una relación familiar y social. Si ellos son honestos tendrán autoridad moral para exigir a sus hijos una buena conducta. Cuando los padres no actúan con honestidad, ¿con qué cara les pedirán a sus hijos un juego limpio? La Responsabilidad: Si desean hacer responsables, sean papás responsables. ¿Qué es ser responsable? Es el que cumple con su obligación sin presiones inmediatas.

La Familia católica, un nobel sentimiento de interés por sí mismo o por su prójimo.

La Verdad: La verdad existe, independientemente de cada uno de nosotros, y nos toca hacer todo lo posible para encontrarla. Jesús nos da otra definición a quienes creemos en él: “Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida” (Jn 14, 6). En efecto, para los cristianos, Dios es la suma verdad y el fundamento de toda verdad. Esa hambre que siente el ser humano de la verdad a final de cuentas es hambre de Dios, es el hombre que por su naturaleza tiende a Dios.

Concurso Estudiantil “La Familia Evangeliadora”

Por Socorro Truchan

“Jesús quiere evangelizadores que anuncien la Buena Nueva no sólo con palabras, sino sobre todo con una vida transfigurada por la presencia de Dios”. - Papa Francisco El Papa Francisco nos llama a difundir la Buena Nueva a través de la evangelización. ¿Cómo se vive en tu familia? Enviar su trabajo original de Arte, Composición, Música, o Video al 3er Concurso Estudiantil de Familias Católicas en Kalamazoo, mostrando cómo se vive como “La Familia Evangeliadora”. El concurso será del 15 de Septiembre del 2016 hasta el 15 de Febrero del 2017 y es para los estudiantes en los grados de 4 a 12 (asistencia a escuelas católicas no es necesaria para participar). Para obtener más información sobre el concurso, incluyendo inscripciones para la presentación y las reglas del concurso, visite diokzoo.org/student-art-contest o llamar a Socorro Truchan al 269-903-0199.
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas on St. Nicholas Day with Bishop Bradley
On Dec. 3, join Bishop Bradley for an afternoon of Christmas joy in the true spirit of Christmas celebrating the feast day of St. Nicholas, from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Crowley Center of St. Augustine Cathedral. Bishop Bradley will read the story of St. Nicholas followed by cookie decorating, a craft, a fun video about the story of St. Nicholas, and even an appearance by St. Nick himself. For more information, visit dokzoo.org or contact: Annette Brennan, abrennan@dokzoo.org, 269-903-0196.

Day of Reflection for Adults with Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities
Come join us for a day of retreat, prayer, fun and fellowship as we focus on the life and example of St. Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta), Bringing Jesus’ Love to the World.
Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pretty Lake Vacation Camp
Retreat Center
9123 Q Ave.
Mattawan, MI 49071
Cost is $15; scholarships are available. Please register by Nov. 21. For questions or to register, contact Lisa Irwin, irwin@dokzoo.org, 269-903-0177.

National Catholic speakers headline Catholic Conference
Popular speakers Fr. Larry Richards and radio personality Teresa Tomeo are the headline speakers for the 2017 Kalamazoo Catholic Conference sponsored by Catholic Men’s Fellowship. The conference is open to men and women and will be held January 21, 2017 at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage.

The morning session will feature presentations by Fr. Richards and Tomeo and the afternoon will feature separate sessions, one for women and one for men. Deacon Dominick Pastore, Tomeo’s husband, will be an additional speaker during the day. He and Tomeo authored a book together entitled, “Intimate Graces”, which will be the theme of their morning talk. Tomeo’s afternoon talk for the women will be based on her book, “God’s Bucket List, Heaven’s sure fire way to happiness in this life and beyond”.
Fr. Richards’ morning talk will be based on his book, “Surrender!: The Life-Changing Power of Doing God’s Will.” In the afternoon Fr. Richards will be addressing the men with a theme of, “A Call To Battle”, based on a short film, created by the Diocese of Phoenix, that seeks to create awareness of a crisis in masculinity found in today’s society.
Advance registration is required and limited to 800 participants.
Cost is $40 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Register online at www.cmfkzoo.org, or mail registration with payment to: CMF, 9750 Siesta Key Drive, Portage MI 49002.

BISHOP’S CALENDAR
Nov. 10, Installation Mass of Fr. Mark Vyverman, St. Mary’s Assumption Parish, Bronson, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 19, Confirmation at St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment
Dec. 4, Penance Service, St. Mark Parish, Niles
Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo
Dec. 12, First Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, St. Joseph Rectory, Battle Creek

VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children Training Sessions
Nov. 7, 8 a.m. – SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor
Nov. 13, 1 p.m. – St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo

Activities around the diocese
Nov. 10-13: Cursillo Weekend for Catholic Women, St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo. Weekend begins 7 p.m. Thursday and concludes by 7 p.m. Sunday. Contact: Sharon Matkin, smatkin@gmail.com.
Nov. 20: Youth Rally 2016 – Hope! In the cray cray, see sidebar for more information. Register: See your parish DRE or youth minister. Cost is free will offering.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us at CCDOK’s 5th Annual
CharitiesDine
November 16th
Dine out to help us serve homeless teens, families in crisis, pregnant women, and babies on the 16th! 25% of your bill will be donated to Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Visit www.ccdok.org for a list of participating restaurants or more information.

Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish
The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues with the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish. If you know someone who has suffered any type of trauma (physical, sexual, neglect, etc.) either in the past or present, please refer them for help to Lisette Mira-Amaya 269-929-7084 or Fanny Tabares 269-903-0200. It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lisette.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number
A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 877-802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the diocese’s effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate diocesan school, parish or office directly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective services.

Congregation of St. Joseph Special Service Days
On October 15, 2016, Founder’s Day, all are invited to participate in service with the Congregation of St. Joseph in any of their locations, including our Sisters of St. Joseph at Nazareth. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information on service opportunities, visit csjoseph.org/serviceopportunities or email celebrating10@csjoseph.org.

Walking On: A Morning of Meaning for Women
Saturday, December 10
9am – 12pm
Sharon Garlough Brown
If you’ve ever felt like your spiritual path takes “two steps forward and one step back,” this day with author of Two Steps Forward, and Sensible Shoes, Sharon Garlough Brown, will nourish your spirit and connect you with others who feel the same.

An Icon Retreat
February 6 - 10
Led by Diane Hamel
Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, writing an icon with celebrated artist Diane Hamel is a richly rewarding experience. The retreat week will be spent in prayerful learning as you create a beautiful and meaningful icon, with experienced direction, that you can take home and enjoy.

More Info & register at TransformationsCenter.org 269-381-6290 x327


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The Presence 2017: Hope! In the Cray Cray – St. Nicholas Day with Bishop Bradley
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50th Wedding Anniversary Mass
On October 2, Bishop Bradley celebrated the annual 50th Anniversary Golden Wedding Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral. Over 70 couples from around the Diocese were recognized for celebrating 50 years of marriage, or more.

St. Ambrose/ St Mary parish collaborative picnic
This year’s St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment, annual parish gathering in September featured new faces as St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo parishioners were invited as part of the new Parish Collaborative. More than 250 people came together for a pizza supper and for the first time a Talent Show featuring parishioners of all ages was the featured entertainment.

Holy Family Healthcare Blessing
Bishop Bradley blessed the Holy Family Healthcare building on Oct. 8. Over 70 people attended the celebration.

Chapel Blessing
The newly renovated chapel in the Diocesan Pastoral Center was dedicated on October 7 under the patronage of Mary, Mother of Mercy and in loving memory of Bishop Alfred J. Markiewicz.

Catholic Conference
Catholic Conference for Men and Women
Pre-registration only • No registration at the door
$40 per person
Register today online: www.cmfkazoo.org
Send check to: CMF — 9750 Siesta Key Dr. Portage, MI 49002

Saturday, January 21, 2017
Conference location:
St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1150 W. Centre Ave., Portage, MI 49024
Conference time: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. • Continental Breakfast and Lunch included

Pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey Center and Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit
46 pilgrims of all ages from the Diocese of Kalamazoo joined in a one-day pilgrimage to Detroit including a visit to the Solanus Casey Center, Mass celebrated with Fr. Don Klinger and a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

50th Wedding Anniversary Mass
Waiting in Joyful Hope
NOVEMBER 2016

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