By Vicki Cessna

On a recent Saturday while most people were out cheering on their favorite football team or headed for one last trip to the beach, close to 20 young adults came together to learn how to minister to their own age group.

Organized by the Diocese and lead by Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Parish Life and Lay Leadership, the workshop began with Mass celebrated by Rev. Dan Hyman, pastor, St. Thomas More Parish, and also featured presentations by Lisa LeVasseur, Campus Minister, St. Thomas More Student Parish, Kalamazoo, Kathy Williams, campus minister, Hackett Catholic Prep, and Kathryn Thuestad, FOCUS minister on Western Michigan University’s campus.

Young Adults, defined by the Vatican as people 16-29, are often a difficult group to reach for parishes. The participants at the workshop recognize the importance of assisting this group in their spiritual journey.

“I believe young adults are a very important age group for the Church and a lot of the times, as a Parish, we are not meeting their needs,” said Gabe Alvez, Parish Administrator, Pastoral Assistant, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis. “Millennials want to be connected to a community relationship. They want to belong to a group with other young adults with the same vision, where they can grow in their faith and do things that actually matter — service projects, outreach, fundraising, and whatever can make a difference in the community.”

Earlier this year the Vatican announced that Pope Francis has called for a synod next year “On Young People, The Faith, And Vocational Discernment.” In order to prepare, Dioceses from around the world were asked to survey the young adults in their area and report to their respective country’s conference of bishops. The Diocese recently sent its survey summary to the USCCB. The results were both sobering and not completely unexpected, according to Jamin Herold, Executive Director, Parish Life and Lay Leadership.

“Some of the survey comments are not surprising for this age group,” noted Herold. Some young adults felt a connection, others felt alienated due to their imperfections. The common thread among most respondents was a need for the Church to do more to reach them. The Diocese has recently seen a positive trend of more participation in programs such as “Good News and Brews” and the Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues.

The XV Ordinary Synod will take place in Rome in October, 2018.

Ordination of 13 Deacons

Kalamazoo United gears up for city-wide event at Wings Stadium

Last month 90 Christian clergy and lay ministry leaders, Catholic and Protestant, came together for a final prayer rally in preparation for Kalamazoo United, a first-ever gathering, to show a unified Body of Christ on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
FROM THE EDITOR
By Victoria Cessna

It was a huge misunderstanding.

My mom was summoned to the principal's office. The alleged offender was my brother, then a second grader who had drawn a very detailed picture of his teacher. The picture, though artistically sound, had caused great concern with Sister Mary Ann the principal of our small town Catholic grade school. My brother had depicted his beloved teacher as a witch – adorned with a black hat and broom but bearing a striking resemblance to Sister Mary Ann the principal of our small town Catholic grade school. My brother had drawn a very detailed picture of his teacher. The principal was aghast and my mom, well, she was amused. For at that time she knew that her son had paid his teacher the highest compliment he could. He thought witches were super cool, the ultimate, having likely been influenced by the then-popular TV show, "Bewitched".

Fortunately my mom had my brother's back that day in the principal's office. The explanation was offered, the young teacher comforted, the principal relieved, and my brother was off the hook. Who knows us better than our moms?

From the moment we come into this world our mothers are our first intercessors. The ones who know our hearts, better than we do sometimes, and often work to right the injustices hurled our way.

Keeping this in mind perhaps it's easier to understand the role our Blessed Mother has in our lives. Though often misunderstood, and even debated among our non-Catholic friends, Mary as our intercessor is one of the beautiful gifts we've been given. We go to her, through our prayers, our conversations and ask her to put in a good word for us with Jesus, so to speak.

One of the ways we do this of course is through the prayers of the rosary. We meditate on the mysteries and in doing so ask Mary, through her special relationship with Jesus, to look into our hearts, to hear our concerns, our struggles.

And like all mothers it's also not surprising that she continues to intercede for us. Sometimes in dramatic ways, such as her appearances to Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, in Fatima, Portugal, and other times in a whisper when we're spending time with her in the quiet of our souls.

As the beautiful Memorare prayer says, "never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided." Sounds like a Mother we can count on.

* The Good News is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, assignments, etc. must state the caption "Official" as to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinions, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

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ANNOUNCEMENT — Bishop Paul J. Bradley has appointed Rev. German Perez-Diaz, pastor, Immaculate Conception, Hartford and Sacred Heart, Bangor, to be the first Director of a new diocesan combined English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Diaconate Formation Program. "As Fr. German begins to assume this new role, he will be charged with initiating a program for men in the Hispanic/Latino community said Bishop Bradley, which will be consistent with the excellence of the English-speaking program we have had in place all these years, and to make sure that the men in both the Spanish-speaking program and the English-speaking program are formed together as much as possible."

RETIEMENTS
Deacon John Bodway, Director of Deacon Formation and Jane Bodway, Support Specialist, diocesan Secretariat for Parish Life and Lay Leadership retired at the end of September from their roles in the diocesan Diaconate Formation Program. Jane also retired from her position with the diocesan Pastoral Center offices where she has worked for more than 20 years.

Deacon Bodway remains in pastoral service at St. Jude Parish, Gobles and the couple will assist in the transition of the Diaconate Formation program.

End of DACA draws statement from bishop; diocesan resources available

Last month Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Department of Homeland Security had formally rescinded the five-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program enacted under the President Obama administration and generally known as the "Dream Act." In light of the announcement Bishop Bradley released a statement affirming support of those impacted by this announcement.

"In light of [last month's] very disappointing announcement that The Department of Homeland Security has formally rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, I wish to extend our prayers, support and continued ministry to all those impacted by this decision," he said. "It is our hope that Congress will work diligently on a just and legal solution so all of you, our sisters and brothers, will be able to remain here as vibrant members of our community. The Church stands with you and will continue to advocate on your behalf to find a clear and just path to U.S. citizenship. Our diocesan Immigration Assistance Program is open to answer questions and direct people to the appropriate resources. Please join with me in praying that all people be recognized as precious children of God."

The diocesan Immigration Assistance Program (IAP) outlined clarifications and resources for those impacted by the end of DACA.

- All pending (those already sent and received by USCIS) renewals and first-time applications will continue to be processed and those applicants may receive a two-year work authorization.
- No first time applications will be received any more.
- Those whose cards expire between now and March 5, 2018, must have filed by October 5, 2017 (received by USCIS — allows for adequate mail time)
- DACA recipients may continue to work legally until their card expires.

Those in need of assistance may contact IAP: 269-385-1019.

Sr. Mary Ann Rybarchycz, OP, celebrates 70th anniversary

Sister Mary Ann Rybarchycz, OP, formerly known as Sister Albert Anne, is celebrating 70 years as an Adrian Dominican Sister. A native of St. Joseph, Mich., Sr. Mary Ann entered the Congregation in February 1947 from St. Joseph Parish and graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Adrian in June of that year. She made her first profession of vows on August 5, 1948 and her final profession on August 5, 1953. Sr. Mary Ann holds a bachelor's degree in English from Siena Heights College (now University) in Adrian in 1955 and a master's degree in teaching math from the University of Detroit in 1971.

She spent her early teaching career in California, Illinois and Michigan and returned to St. Joseph in 1973 where she has ministered at Lake Michigan Catholic High School for 40 years until her retirement in 2013. Currently, her volunteer activities include delivering baked goods to migrants, the senior citizens and the Catholic Community Center.

The diocesan Immigration Assistance Program is helping clients navigate the new DACA guidelines. Shown left: Karina Puig, program assistant, with Samantha Lindberg, attorney and program director.
The Bishop’s Perspective

Cultivating a Catholic culture

In the beautiful nine counties of our diocese we’re just beginning to witness those first signs of fall: shorter days, crispier air and the start of bright autumn colors adorning the trees. For us this great season might mean trips to football games and apple orchards. We’re blessed. For those in Texas, the Caribbean Islands, Florida and Puerto Rico this season means one of rebuilding from the catastrophic hurricane damage already done as well as worrying about the possibility of more to come.

What stood out like a bright light throughout the days of media coverage and storm tracking of those catastrophic days was the countless heartwarming stories of everyday heroes, certainly the first responders, but also ordinary citizens going above and beyond to make life better for their neighbors and friends.

And my dear sisters and brothers aren’t we called to live that out every day?

As I watch and read the coverage on the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, I’m amazed by the everyday acts of kindness, sacrifice and selflessness that have shone a light on the best part of humanity — the Catholic business owner who opened up his mattress store to those fleeing flooding in Houston; the Carmelite Sister wielding a chainsaw to help with clean-up; the priest making “house calls” in his kayak to pray with people who were so frightened and sad; and the countless people who opened their homes to evacuees; opened their hearts with prayer; opened their bank accounts with a financial donation. All this done in response to a basic desire central to our humanity: to protect and preserve life.

This month of October as we observe “Respect Life” month I am particularly mindful of these wonderful examples of Christ-like behavior which are perfect examples of what it means for us to respect and value human life at every point along the spectrum of the life cycle. While I certainly don’t wish natural disasters to take place and wreak damage, can you imagine what it would be like if we acted generously, this kindly, this selflessly every day — without a disaster urging us on?

What would it take to more fully embrace our Catholic faith which in turn guides us to be missionary disciples? How can we allow God’s light to shine in the world, spreading our Catholic faith in such a way that reflects the Gospel message in everything we do and every issue we encounter?

Finding the answers to these questions will help us to know how to build a culture of life. We will recognize who we are as children of God, made in His image: “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” [Genesis 1:27]. What is striking in this passage is this: whether a male or female, neither one contains the complete meaning of what it is to be a human without the other. God made us for communion with each other. That longing for community is part of our spiritual DNA.

How do we create a culture of life? A culture that is positively impacted by our Catholic faith? By first looking inward to ourselves and starting with a conversion of our own hearts. This includes a willingness to be instructed and a desire to be close to Jesus — the source of joy and love. We accomplish this through a daily robust prayer life; time in scripture; and availing ourselves of the sacraments. Of course the Eucharist to be the foundation for the Catholic culture in our lives, both through receiving Our Lord through His Communion and through time spent in Adoration of Our Lord in times of prayer. When we take time to reflect on the true gift of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, and let that Real Presence be alive in us and guide us in our daily lives, then we will be taking real steps to creating a culture of life.

When we encounter Christ, through daily prayer time reading sacred scripture and through the sacraments, we experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share His love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.

We need look no further than Jesus; great words of instruction in his beatitudes from the “Sermon on the Mount.” We live out the beatitudes by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Sometimes our actions speak for themselves, such as the corporal work of visiting the sick; other times, words are necessary, such as the spiritual work of forgiving injuries. Whatever the situation, Jesus knows how to speak to each person’s heart; we simply need to follow where He leads.

I truly believe that if we answer the call to missionary discipleship, infuse our daily lives immersed in living our faith, we will help to combat many of the issues that are permeating our culture today — issues of racism, prejudice and a devaluation of the family. These are issues which reflect whether we are totally respecting everything we do and every issue we encounter?

As we look to the year 2018 and the coming Synod of Bishops on the theme of “Young People, the faith and Communion in the World,” we have the opportunity to reflect on the Synod’s theme of “misericordia et veritas.” Misericordia and veritas are values that should be at the center of our lives and our faith. Misericordia is merciful love and veritas is truth. Misericordia is the active love that shows compassion for suffering humanity. Veritas is truth that is lived out in our daily lives.

As we enjoy the beautiful fall weather — the wonderful orange and red leaves of the trees; the delightful sound of the leaves rustling in the wind; the pleasant crispness of the air — we should be inspired to be merciful and truthful. We should be moved by compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves and we should strive to live up to the truth we profess. This inspires us to be witnesses of the Gospel message in our lives.

As we prepare to enter the solemnity of All Souls’ Day on November 2nd, let us remember the mercy of God the Father, our heavenly Father, that we might be a mercy to others. It is our desire that our Lady, the Mother of Mercy, may intercede for us that we may show mercy to others as we come to know God’s mercy.

As we begin our preparation for the season of Advent, may we begin anew our preparation for the coming of our Lord. May we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Lord. May we strive to be merciful and truthful as we look forward to the season of Christmas, a season that celebrates the coming of Jesus our Lord.

La Perspectiva del Obispo

Cultivando una cultura católica

En los hermosos nueve condados de nuestra diócesis estamos empezando a presenciar los primeros signos del Otoño: días más cortos, aire fresco y el comienzo de los colores brillantes de otoño que adornan los árboles.

Para nosotros esta gran temporada puede significar juegos de fútbol y recoger manzanas. Estamos bendecidos. Para aquellos en Texas, las Islas del Caribe y la Florida la temporada significa una reconstrucción del daño ya hecho por el catastrófico huracán y preocupándose por la posibilidad de más por venir.

Lo que se destacó como una luz brillante a lo largo de los días de cobertura de los medios de comunicación y el rastreo de tormentas de esos días catastróficos fueron las innumerables historias reconfortantes de héroes cotidianos, sin duda los primeros que respondieron, pero también ciudadanos comunes yendo más allá para mejorar la vida de sus vecinos y amigos.

Y mis queridas hermanas y hermanos ¿no estamos llamados a vivir eso todos los días?

Mientras observo y leo la cobertura sobre las secuelas de los huracanes Harvey e Irma, me sorprenden los actos cotidianos de bondad, sacrificio y abnegación que han iluminado la mejor parte de la humanidad: el dueño de un negocio católico que abrió su tienda de colchones para los que huían de las inundaciones en Houston; la Hermana Carmelita manejando una motosierra para ayudar con la limpieza; el sacerdote haciendo visitas a las casas en su kayak para orar con gente que estaba tan asustada y triste; y las innumerables personas que abrieron sus hogares a los evacuados; abrieron sus corazones con oración; abrieron sus cuentas bancarias con donación financiera. Todo ello en respuesta a un deseo básico central de nuestra humanidad: proteger y preservar la vida.

Este mes de octubre, al observar el mes de “Respetar la Vida”, estoy particularmente atento a estos maravillosos ejemplos de comportamiento similar a Cristo que son ejemplos perfectos de lo que significa para nosotros respetar y valorar la vida humana en cada punto del espectro del ciclo de la vida. Si bien ciertamente no quiero que los desastres naturales ocurran y causen daños, ¿pueden imaginar cómo sería si actuáramos tan generosamente, tan amablemente, tan desinteresadamente todos los días — sin que nos urja un desastre?

¿Qué se necesita para abrazar más plenamente nuestra fe católica que a su vez nos guía a ser discípulos misioneros? ¿Cómo podemos permitir que la luz de Dios brille en el mundo, difundiendo nuestra fe católica de tal manera que refleje el mensaje del Evangelio en todo lo que hacemos y cada situación que encontramos?

Encontrar las respuestas a estas preguntas nos ayudará a saber cómo construir una cultura de vida. Reconoceremos quiénes somos como hijos de Dios, hechos a su imagen. “Dios creó a la humanidad a su imagen; a la imagen de Dios los creó; varón y mujer los creó” [Génesis 1:27]. Lo que llama la atención en este pasaje es esto: sea un hombre o una mujer, ninguno contiene el significado completo de lo que es ser humano sin el otro. Dios nos hizo para la comunión con otros. Ese anhelo de comunidad es parte de nuestro ADN espiritual.

¿Cómo creamos una cultura de la vida? ¿Una cultura que este impactada positivamente por nuestra fe católica? Mirando primero hacia adentro de nosotros mismos y comenzar con una conversión de nuestros propios corazones. Esto incluye la disposición a ser instruidos y el deseo de estar cerca de Jesús - la fuente de alegría y amor. Logramos esto a través de una vida diaria de oración robusta; tiempo con la sagrada escritura; y aprovechándonos de los sacramentos. Por supuesto, la Eucaristía es la fuente y la cumbre de nuestras vidas espirituales. Como católicos necesitamos que la Eucaristía sea el fundamento de la cultura católica en nuestras vidas, tanto a través de recibir a Nuestro Señor a través de Su Comunión como a través del tiempo dedicado a la Adoración de Nuestro Señor en tiempos de oración.

Cuando tomamos el tiempo para reflexionar sobre el verdadero don de la Presencia Real en la Eucaristía y dejamos que la Presencia Real esté viva en nosotros y nos guíe en nuestra vida cotidiana, entonces estaremos tomando pasos reales para crear una cultura de vida.

Cuando encontramos a Cristo, a través de la oración diaria leyendo la Sagrada Escritura y a través de los sacramentos, experimentamos Su amor y profundizamos nuestra relación con Él, nos hacemos más conscientes de nuestro propio valor y el de los demás. Su amor por cada persona es motivo de gran alegría, y la creciente comprensión de este inestimable tesoro nos motiva a compartir Su amor con los demás. Nuestras vidas son a menudo cambiadas por el testimonio de otros, así también, las vidas de otros pueden ser cambiadas por nuestro testimonio y amistad auténtica con ellos.

No necesitamos buscar más allá de que las grandes palabras de instrucción de Jesús en sus Bienaventanzas en el “Sermón del Monte”. Vivimos la bienaventuranza...
Office of Schools releases annual report

The diocesan Office of Schools, lead by Superintendent Margaret Erich, recently released its Annual Report for the 2016-2017 school year. The report features highlights from the 23 Catholic schools in the Diocese in the areas of faith, academics and service. The report also includes test scores by grade level with state and national comparisons.

In her introductory letter Erich writes, “As a life-long educator, it thrills me to see the many ways we challenge our students to reach their full academic potential. We’re proud of the evidence of their hard work and their unmatched test scores. We are also committed to serving a diverse population and have several schools who have attended the Latino Enrollment Institute at the University of Notre Dame.

“We walk alongside our educators who are entrusted with the care of our students and offer more than 100 plus hours of professional development as well as skills and certification workshops. And because we value the formation of the whole child, we’re continuously amazed by their selfless witness of service to their communities and each other.”

Printed copies will be distributed to Catholic school families this month.

Free download is available at www.diokzoo.org.

Respect Life Month

October is observed annually as Respect Life Month, which kicks off the annual cycle of the Respect Life Program that runs from Respect Life Sunday (the first Sunday of October) through the following September. The Respect Life Program is designed to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with supporting the God-given dignity of every person— which naturally leads to protecting the gift of every person’s life. The theme for October 2017-2018 is “Be Not Afraid.” Nearly all the materials in the Respect Life Program, which include prayer resources, articles, educational materials, action ideas, e-tools and much more, are available for free online. Learn more at www.usccb.org/respectlife. Locally check volunteer and prayer warriors are still invited to participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign; https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/kalamazoo/ which runs through November 5th.

The Bishop’s Perspective

Continued from page 3

human life or not.

My dear sisters and brothers, during this wonderful month of October, in which we observe the month of the rosary, may we call upon our Blessed Mother, who 100 years ago this October 13th made her final appearance to the children in Fatima, and through her intercession ask for her help in turning away from sin and turning toward Jesus. And in doing so, may we cultivate a culture that truly respects, values, protects and rejoices in the great gift of human life.

God Bless You.

Battle Creek Catholic starts faith-inspired shoe company

By Nicole L.V. Mullis

This summer, St. Joseph (Battle Creek) parishioner Beth Greenman launched In His Steps, a Christian footwear company. Her journey began with a prayer said at a crossroad.

Greenman's son graduated from St. Philip High School in 2015, leaving this devoted mom with an empty calendar. "I was just praying God would show me the path for my next vocation in life," Greenman said.

Divine inspiration came while Greenman was participating in St. Joseph Parish's Feast of Corpus Christi procession. "We were bringing Jesus to all who were open to receive him, and I was so moved by that," Greenman said. "I kept thinking, 'In His steps, in His step, I'm walking in His steps.'" The idea struck her — what if your shoes reminded you to live a more conscious life?

"When you're putting on your shoes in the morning, you are putting on Christ and you're thinking, 'What can I do today to walk in His steps and make a difference?'" Greenman said. "And when you take off your shoes at the end of the day, you can reflect. It's kind of holding you responsible."

Greenman couldn't get the idea out of her head but knew nothing about making shoes. She consulted her nephew J.P. Bauman, a venture capitalist in Colorado. He loved the idea, assembling a team that included Read Worth, who had more than 40 years in the footwear industry.

Worth designed a shoe from Greenman's suggestion of "something Jesus would wear". The simple canvas upper with a flip-flop bottom is practical, but also purposeful. Each pair bears the IHS logo, which Greenman hopes will include a men's shoe and a toddler's shoe.

On August 1st, IHS launched their first women's shoe online at www.inhissteps.co, appropriately named Genesis. Advertising is mostly word-of-mouth and social media, but Greenman is filling regular orders, often boxing shoes in her home. The IHS team is already planning next season's shoes, which Greenman hopes will include a men's shoe and a toddler's shoe.

"God is opening all these doors for me and if he continues to do that I will walk through them," Greenman said.
A new class of Echo interns brings joy to Diocese of Kalamazoo

By Nicole L.V. Mullis

Three new Notre Dame Echo interns have started in the Diocese and their joy is contagious.

“The influx of new ideas and energy, mixed with the professionalism of students learning what it means to work in the Church, brings an energy and excitement about the faith from new perspectives,” said Jamin Herold, executive director of Parish Life and Lay Leadership for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Echo is a two-year graduate program through Notre Dame. Students earn a Masters in Theology while interning in a parish or a school. This is the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s third class of interns.

Michelle Moynihan is interning at St. Monica, Kalamazoo, mentored by Laurie Schulte, coordinator of Christian Service and Volunteers. A Draper, Utah native, Moynihan earned her bachelor’s degree in linguistics at the University of Utah. She wanted a life of service but never considered pursuing a master’s in theology. Then she met an Echo alumni through her mother.

“I was really drawn to the service aspect of it, being able to work in the Church while you are studying,” Moynihan said. “I [want] to help people know God in a more intimate way.”

Moynihan is picking up where St. Monica’s last Echo intern, Alanna Kenney, left off, focusing on young adult ministries. Her work includes teaching 7th-grade Confirmation classes and starting a youth group for public school children.

Nicole Kegley is interning at St. Joseph, Battle Creek, mentored by the pastor, Rev. Christopher Ankley. Hailing from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Kegley earned a bachelor’s in theology from Fordham University in New York. Although Kegley wanted to further her education, she also wanted to get out there and “do something”. Her brother-in-law, an Echo alumni, suggested Echo.

“It was kind of a perfect mixture of both,” Kegley said. “I’m not just getting an education, I am putting it to use.” Kegley, fluent in Spanish, will help start a Hispanic youth group, as well as co-teach the Confirmation catch-up class, and help chaperone the tri-parish youth group to the National Catholic Youth Council (NCYC) next month, Madeline Haydon is interning at St. Mary, Kalamazoo, mentored by the pastor, Rev. James Richardson.

Haydon calls Bardstown, Ky., home, earning her master’s in theology at Bellarmine University (Ky.). While talking with a friend in the Echo program, Haydon realized she wanted her master’s in theology.

Haydon’s background in education will come in handy. As St. Mary’s first Echo intern, she will help teach catechism and sacrament preparation, as well as lead Scripture reflections.

All three interns live in a house on the St. Joseph, Battle Creek, grounds. For the next two years, they will share prayers, meals, chores, and jokes.

New Evangelization Convocation features two-days of dynamic break-outs

This year’s diocesan New Evangelization Convocation features a variety of break sessions. The annual convocation brings together catechists, educators, lay ministry leaders and is open to all Catholics who want to grow in the faith. Participants now have the option of attending two days with each day featuring Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley. The keynote speakers, Damon and Melanie Owens, are nationally known and will cover the topic of missionary discipleship [see The Good News, September 2017 cover story.]

Some of the sessions offered include the following:

• Understanding Divine Revelation
• The Church in the Public Square
• Faith and Science a Dialogue: talking to those who can’t reconcile faith and science
• Inspiring Young Adult Ministry
• Building a Pro-Life Team
• In the Context of Divine Mercy: Celebrating the Sacraments with persons with disabilities
• Why Hippos are cool: The Story of St Augustine and conversion of the Peripheries

The diocese welcomes three new Notre Dame ECHO interns from left, Nicole Kegley, Michelle Moynihan and Madeline Haydon.

This year’s convocation will be held at Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo on Friday, October 13, and Saturday October 14! Choose one day or come both days. On Friday Mass starts at 8:30 a.m. and on Saturday, Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Bishop Bradley will serve as principal celebrant for both Masses.

The Other Six Days

By Jane and Ellen Knuth

Faith, Fog, and Francis de Sales

Jane: Francis de Sales, (1567-1621), bishop of Geneva, famous for his writing, was the spiritual director of my patron saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, and also a colleague of St. Vincent de Paul. Francis often taught his readers by comparing God’s ways to the ways of nature. He saw God working in our lives in similar ways that He was working in the lives of honey bees and blue-footed boobies. In Introduction to the Devout Life, he explains the dangers of anxiety:

“Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall us, except sin…Birds remain captive in nets because, when they are entangled in them, they flutter and struggle wildly to escape…they always entangle themselves more. Therefore, when you are taken up by the desire to be delivered from some evil or to obtain some good, place yourself above all in peace and tranquility. Compose your judgment and your will. Then, quietly and gently pursue the object of your desire…

This fall I spent a quiet week at a cottage absorbing nature. Francis de Sales seemed to be pointing out God to me at every turn. There was the reflection of the colorful leaves in the lake — same colors pointing in opposite directions. It reminded me that water reflects beauty like baptism. I watched chimpmunks, nuthatches and squirrels gather beechnuts, acorns and pepperidge berries, storing them in crevices and holes. And each morning, there was more to gather — like God’s love. For twenty minutes, a pair of pilated woodpeckers pounded the rotten tree above my head. I had forgotten that nature needs dead things in order for live things to live. And so do nature and dead saints lead me to “peace and tranquility.”

Ellen: My commute to work this morning was shrouded in fog. Not the wispy, grass-skimming fog of daybreak, but the heavy, sound-muffling variety that renders everything mysterious and far away. I know that fog and mist are horror movie tropes, meant to create unease and fear, but I found this one comforting. It reduced my ability to see that which is there, true, but I didn’t panic. I was able to focus more sharply on what was right around me; trusting that the rest was still there, even if I couldn’t see it.

For me, fog is similar to faith. Faith is both simultaneously frightening and comforting as I make a choice to ignore anxious murmurs and trust that good things are still there, just out of sight. This doesn’t mean I shouldn’t take appropriate caution — maybe slow down and turn on the headlights — but I’m not about to turn around and go back. Instead I will focus on what is immediately ahead and take care not to hurt others as I make my way forward to my destination.

Fog, fear, and faith: Francis de Sales might like my morning commute.
La Diócesis de Kalamazoo pre- senta una convocatoria para la Nueva Evangelización con el lema: Discípulos Misioneros. El conse- rencista principal será Damon Owens y su esposa Melanie fundado- res de joyTOB.org y Joy to Be Family. Usted puede saber más de ellos y su ministerio en joyTOB.org. Costo de la convoca- ción: $45 y hay descuento para grupos de 5 o más personas.

¿Por qué una Convocatoria? Una convocatoria es un llamado a unirnos, y estamos llamando a todos los fieles a unirnos para ex- plorar, discutir y sumergirnos en la Nueva Evangelización.

¿Por qué el tema? El tema “Discípulos Misioneros” viene de la reciente Convocatoria Nacional de Líderes Católicos que fue lle- vada a cabo en Orlando, Florida. A esta convocatoria asistieron Obis- pos y sus delegaciones de 150 dió- sis de los Estados Unidos. Fue una reunión sin precedentes de más de 3000 líderes católicos para discutir sobre el llamado a ser dis- cípulos misioneros.

- Sábado (talleres en español): 9:00-10:00 Convocatoria Principal 10:15-11:15 Taller 1 11:30-12:30 Taller 2 12:30-1:30 Taller 2 1:45-2:45 Taller 3 3:00-4:00 Taller 4 4:15-5:15 Misa

Gracias Voluntarios de Migrant Ministry
Agradecemos profundamente a todos los voluntarios que directamente e indirectamente ayudaron en el ministerio con los campesinos mi- grantes. Los invitamos a una cena de agradecimiento el miércoles 18 de octubre del 2017 a las 6:30p.m. en el Crowley Center de la Cated- ral de San Agustín, 542 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Para su atención vea al 269-903-0197 para confirmar su asistencia.

Thank You to the Volunteers of Migrant Ministry: We want to thank all the volunteers who directly helped in the ministry to the migrant farmworkers. We invite you to an apprecia- tion dinner on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 6:30p.m. at the Crowley Center of St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Please call 269-903-0197 to confirm your attendance.

La Religiosidad Popular y la Biblia
Por las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu
Para valorar positivamente la religiosidad popu- lar, debemos partir de una antropología optimista. El hombre no puede ser definido, si no es por su apertura a lo trascendente. Debemos partir de una antropología desde la que el hombre como una unidad de cuerpo-espíritu, está abierto al infinito. El hombre descubre, por Dios, a la persona que es y hace en su realidad conc- reta de vida.

Para integrar la religiosidad popular tenemos que partir de una concepción del hombre como el ser de lo trascendente, de lo sagrado. El hombre es una criatura capaz de pensar y, demostrar su inteligencia si esta llega a un reconocimiento adelfante de la fe.

Si se toma como base la Evangelii Nuntiandi 48 donde afirma que la religiosidad popular tiene que ser tenida en cuenta por la evangelización dado que son expresiones propias de búsqueda de Dios y de la fe. La religiosidad popular es un aspecto importante en la vida y todo bautizado, además que es algo que crece en forma astronómica, no solo desde el aspecto económico, turístico, alienante, sino también como expresión sincera de fe, siendo de gran impacto en las economías.

La religión relaciona al hombre consigo mismo, con las demás personas, con las cosas y con aquellos que responden plenamente a su vocación; con lo trascendente, que es la razón última de su existir. El mensaje de Jesús anunciado a los di- versos pueblos y culturas integró expresiones reli- giosas diversas que cambiaron las manifestaciones culturales, las normas morales, la manera de entender el mensaje.

Bíblicamente el culto del Antiguo Testamento ex- terioriza la fe en la elección, siendo una respuesta de un Pueblo penetrado por la religiosidad. En el Nuevo Testamento, Jesús también se enfrenta durante con la religión legalista de su tiempo. Discute o rec- haza las normas morales de los fariseos; ubica el sábado, y por lo tanto toda la ley al servicio del hombre (Mt. 15, 1-9). Jesús dice que el culto verdadero al Dios verdadero, se realiza en espíritu y en verdad (Jn. 4, 21-24). Esta idea la plasma muy bien la carta a los Romanos (Rom. 12, 1-2).
Here & There

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

BISHOP BRADLEY’S CALENDAR

Oct. 8 – 125th Anniversary of St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 11 – Widowed Friends Mass, St. Augustine, 3 p.m.

Oct. 12 – St. Monica Back-to-School Mass and Grandparents Day, 8 a.m.

Oct. 13 – Opening Mass, Diocesan Convocation, Hackett Catholic Prep

Oct. 14 – Closing Mass, Diocesan Convocation, Hackett Catholic Prep

Oct. 16 – Lake Michigan Catholic Walk for Education, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, 1 p.m.

Nov. 1 – All Saints Mass, Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 1 – All Saints Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, 12:10 p.m.

Nov. 4 – V Encuentro

Nov. 8 – Mass Honoring Deceased Clergy, St. Augustine Cathedral, 4 p.m.

Nov. 17-19 –NCYC, Indianapolis

Bishop Bradley’s Confirmation Schedule

Oct. 7 – St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment, 5 p.m.

Oct. 15 – St. Mary’s Visitatio, Byron Center, 3 p.m.

Oct. 28 – Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartland, 1 p.m.

Oct. 29 – St. Peter & San Felipe de Jesus Parishes, St. Peter, Douglas, 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 19 – Diocesan Confirmation, St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m.

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE DIOCESE

Oct. 7 – Action 4 Peace Social Justice and Nonviolence conference, taught by Don Jim Rauner at Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford. 8-week course Saturday mornings 9 a.m. until noon. Class limited to 30 participants. More information available: action4peace.us.

Oct. 11 – Mary as Warrior – Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, presentation by Fr. Dan Doctor, Parochial Vicar, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo on the prayerful and scriptural look at the role of Mary as warrior in our story of salvation. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Northern parishes host conference on evangelization and discipleship

On Saturday, September 9th, 2017, sixty guests gathered together to attend the first annual Conference on Evangelization and Discipleship. Sponsored by the North Allegan Catholic Collaborative (St. Mary Visitation, Byron Center, Sacred Heart Parish, Watston) this event was designed as part of their spiritual renewal efforts through Ignited in Christ.

“A lot of us would love to talk with our friends or coworkers about God but we don’t know what to say or how to start the conversation. This conference was designed to help prepare ourselves with the practical skills we need to ‘go forth and make disciples,’ as Christ said,” stated Jim Nachtegall, Director of Evangelization and Coordinator of Religious Education North Allegan Catholic Collaborative. As the day progressed, it became increasingly more evident that the Holy Spirit was at work. Beginning with a presentation by Steve Anderson on the Art of Accompaniment. Megan Baum delivered a closing talk, sharing some of her own testimony and calling everyone to action with the message that our efforts and our love was meaningful and impactful.

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.

Cover story continued – Kalamazoo United

“The goal is to get everyone energized and say, ‘Man, I really want to be a part of this,’” said Jeff Wenke, pastor of The Bridge, co-organizer of the event. Kalamazoo Diocese Bishop Paul Bradley, the other co-organizer, said, “This is a very exciting moment in the Kalamazoo area to have Christians of all denominations, Protestants and Catholics, coming together to talk about what it is that unites us, rather than to continue to focus on the divisions.”

Fray Denny of St. Monica Catholic Church led everyone in reciting the Nicene Creed. John McMullen of Centerpoint, and Ashley Take of The Bridge, led everyone in singing “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” Kalamazoo United will be held this month, October 29, Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo beginning at 4 p.m. Visit www.kalamazoounited.org.

Tickets available for Inmaculée Ilibagiza event at Miller Auditorium

Inmaculée Ilibagiza will present, Left to Tell – A Story of Forgiveness, Faith & Hope, Presented by Deacon Louis Zemlick with the blessing of Bishop Bradley & the Diocese of Kalamazoo, this month. Ilibagiza is best-known for her bestselling book of the same name and her story as a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide that took the lives of nearly one million Tutsi men, women and children, including her entire family except for one of her brothers. She found shelter at a pastor’s home, where she and seven other women hid from deadly rebels in a 3 x 4-foot bathroom for 91 days. During those days of unimaginable suffering, she found her faith and taught herself English using only a bible and dictionary. Remarkably she committed herself to a life of peace, hope and forgiveness, even for those who had murdered her family. Thursday October 19, 2017 – 7 pm, Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo. Tickets: $10 Students, $15 Regular. Purchase tickets at the box office, over the phone (269) 387-2300 or online: www.millerauditorium.com

Diocese of Kalamazoo Policy on Non-Discrimination

The Schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, subject to the limitations of the VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs and activities, employment policies or contractual agreements. Allegan: St. Mary’s Visitatio, Byron Center; St. Stanislaus, Dorr; St. Margaret, Osceo; St. Therese, Wayland; Barry: St. Rose of Lima, Hastings. Berrien: Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary and LMC Jr/Sr High School, St. Joseph; St. Mary of the Lake, New Buffalo; St. Mary, Niles; Branch: St. Mary’s Assumption, Bronson, Calhoun: St. Joseph Elementary, St. Joseph Middle School, St. Philip Catholic Central, Battle Creek; Kalamazoo: St. Augustine, St. Monica and Hackett Catholic Central High School, Kalamazoo. St. Joseph: Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers. Van Buren: St. Mary, Paw Paw, St. Basil, South Haven.

St. Augustine Cathedral 742 W. Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • 269.348.6147
Open to the public with a free-will offering.

Steve Anderson gave a talk on the “Art of Accompaniment” at the recent Evangelization and Discipleship conference hosted by the North Allegan Catholic Collaborative.
Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley made the following appointments for the 2017 class of Permanent Deacons

Deacon Jason Aiello — has been appointed to St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo

Deacon James Bauer — has been appointed to the Collaborative of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, and St. Margaret Parish, Otsego

Deacon Dr. Don Bouchard — has been appointed to St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, Kalamazoo

Deacon Brian Kaluzny — has been appointed to St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage

Deacon Timothy Kistka — has been appointed to St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo

Deacon David Krajewski — has been appointed to the Collaborative of St. Joseph Parish and St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek

Deacon Edward LaRoche — has been appointed to the Collaborative of St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Byron Center, St. Stanislaus Parish, Dorr, and Sacred Heart Parish, Watson

Deacon Edward Nickel — has been appointed to the Collaborative of SS John and Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, St. Joseph, and St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet

Deacon Duane Poage — has been appointed to the Collaborative of St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, St. Jude Parish, Gobles, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, and St. Margaret Mary Parish, Marcellus

Deacon Alberto Rivera-Gutierrez — has been appointed to St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs

Deacon Phillip Sirk — has been appointed to the Collaborative of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Silver Creek, Holy Family Parish, Decatur, St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan, and St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs

Deacon Alan Sosinski — has been appointed to the Collaborative of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater, St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Bronson, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City

Deacon John Wielgos — has been appointed to the Collaborative of St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Bronson, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Coldwater, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City

All assignments are effective immediately. At a time in the near future, the deacons will receive their ministry of charity assignment.