Hundreds gather for annual convocation

For Connie Juszczyk, Director of St. Catherine of Siena Preschool, the highlight of the annual convocation was an opportunity to share and learn from others.

“Sometimes God puts people in your life at just the right moment,” she said when describing her joy at connecting with other teachers and catechists at the annual New Evangelization Convocation hosted by the diocesan secretariats of Parish Life and Lay Leadership and Catholic Education and New Evangelization.

Juszczyk also enjoyed the keynote speakers, Melanie and Damon Owens, and participated in a number of breakout workshops offered.

The two-day convocation began and closed with Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley. During his homily at the opening Mass, Bishop Bradley affirmed the importance of new evangelization in living one’s faith. He said, “[New Evangelization] is all about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; it is all about our relationship with Him; it is all about understanding the relationship between faith and science to how to create safe environments.

This year’s convocation offered a number of workshops with topics ranging from “How to build a Pro-Life Parish Ministry” to understanding the relationship between faith and science to how to create safe environments.

“Our baptism creates at least two essential roles in our lives,” explained Bishop Bradley during his homily for the closing Mass, “One, it activates us to a lifetime Vocation of growing in holiness in union with Jesus our Lord and Savior, the Head of the Body and the Source of the life of the Church, and two, it commissions us to be, what Pope Francis has come to identify as, joyful disciples. Our lives are all about living in this world while not allowing the ways of the world to distract us from embracing the ways of God; while at the same time, our lives are supposed to be about not just living as joyful disciples, but sharing the Good News of Jesus to those who do not know the Gospel—that is, to be missionary disciples. That has always been God’s Plan, even if we are only recently becoming aware of what that means in our lives.”

Family tends to diocesan cemetery in Kalamazoo

Shaun Albertson, shown below, is the fourth generation in his family to caringly tend to Mt Olivet Cemetery, Kalamazoo. The only diocesan cemetery is the final resting place for a number of notable Catholics including the first bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Paul V. Donovan.
FROM THE EDITOR
By Victoria Cessna

I’m pretty sure it was the dead frog that was the final straw. As a pre-med major my freshman year in college I had to keep a stiff, formaldehyde-smelling frog in my dorm room so I could study it for biology lab. I still remember having to carefully execute the dissection of my assigned-frog to study its muscle tissues. Even today the memory of this experience activates my gag reflex.

Becoming a doctor had been a dream of mine since I was 13 years old and read “The Making of a Female Surgeon.” I loved my biology and anatomy classes but comprehending calculus and chemistry, required subjects, alluded my English-major brain. My God-given gifts and talents weren’t really preparing me for a life in medicine as I was more skilled at dissecting the meaning of a poem than an amphibian.

At 18 I thought I knew what I wanted to do, however, it took me a bit longer to realize that wasn’t what God wanted me to do. Oftentimes when we hear or talk about vocation we immediately think of a calling to the religious life. I never tire of hearing these inspiring stories from men and women who answered God’s call to be priests, deacons, religious sisters. And many, like me, were thrown a few curve balls along the way.

This month the Church sets aside November 5 – 11th as National Vocation Awareness week — a time to pray in a very dedicated way that many will hear God’s call and support those who are already considering a vocation to religious life.

Each one of us has a vocation - those men and women who are chosen in a special way by God to serve as His shepherds and ministers but also each of us who are invited to listen and discern God’s plan for our lives.

And whether you’re discerning a professional vocation, as I had to do in college, or a calling to religious life, the one thing you need is to be steeped in prayer.

Last fall Pope Francis, in a meeting with the International Congress of vocation ministry, shared how his own call occurred, “by having experienced the merciful gaze of Jesus on me. When we welcome Christ, we live a decisive encounter which sheds light on our existence, pulls us out of the anguish of our small world and makes us become disciples enamored with the Master.”

Jesus is the ultimate life coach — ready to let us know what we’re called to do. We just have to ask.

Intentions from Pope Francis

Christians in Asia — That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

Five-Year Lawsuit Ends with Religious Liberty Protections Intact

(Lansing, Mich.) — After five years of litigation in federal court, Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) and Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo announced today its lawsuit against the federal government regarding the controversial Department of Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate has been settled in a favorable manner that protects religious liberty rights. The settlement comes less than one week after President Trump announced new regulations that provide broad exemptions for religious entities opposed to including or facilitating contraceptive coverage in their employer health plans.

Michigan Catholic Conference initially filed its lawsuit against the federal government in May 2012 in response to regulations issued under the Affordable Care Act that required all employers, religious or otherwise, to include coverage for contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing products in their health benefit plans. Additional lawsuits were filed by dozens of universities, health care facilities, Catholic dioceses and bishops, publishing houses and social service agencies opposed to the mandate on religious grounds. Although the federal government offered differing ‘accommodations’ to appease these organizations, none of those efforts satisfied the First Amendment and religious liberty concerns raised by the litigants, including Michigan Catholic Conference.

“We are pleased with the favorable settlement by Michigan Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo in its five-year lawsuit with the federal government regarding the controversial Department of Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate,” said Bishop Bradley. “This is an important step in furthering our religious liberty protection and ensuring those rights are safeguarded so religious institutions such as Catholic Charities may be able to continue its good work in accordance with our religious convictions.”

Michigan Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in this state.

U.S. Bishops to meet November 13-16 in Baltimore; Address from Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Report from Bishops Working Group on Immigration, Centennial Anniversary

October 10, 2017

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will meet in Baltimore, November 13-16, for their final general assembly. During the assembly, the bishops will elect a new secretary for the Conference as well as five committee chairs.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, will also give his first address to the body of bishops as President of the USCCB as he completes the first year of his three-year term. In addition, the body of bishops will also hear an update from the bishops working group on immigration.

The bishops will vote for new chairmen-elect of the following six USCCB committees: Committee on Communications, Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, Committee on National Collections, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Committee on Doctrine, and a Chairman for the Committee for Religious Liberty. Bishop nominees for the board of directors for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will also elected.

The assembly will vote on the ICEL Gray Book translation of the Order of Baptism of Children text which reflects the translation principles introduced in Liturgiam authenticam. They will also discuss and vote on the Conference’s 2018 budget.

There will also be a voice vote on the cause for canonization for a Lakota holy man and medicine man turned Catholic teacher named Nicholas Black Elk, Sr., sought by Bishop Robert Gruss of Rapid City, S.D.

Several reports will also be given including a report from the National Advisory Council, as well as a report from Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and from Bishop Frank Dewane, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and from Bishop George Murry, Chairman of the newly established Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.
How to be a Saint

One of my favorite experiences is attending events in any of our parishes where the CCD or Catholic school children make presentations about the lives of the saints. Some of those events sponsor “living museums” about the saints in which children have been invited to adopt a saint, learn about his/her/their lives and then present themselves as that saint in appropriate dress. Others have quizzes and contests, celebrating their own patron saint. Whatever the method, whether it’s creative costumes or joyful celebrations, the genuine interest in the lives of those saints who inspire us with their examples of faith is a great practice, not only for students, but for all of us.

The term “saint”, a very precise ecclesiological term officially bestowed by the Church after a long process with exhaustive examinations upon a person who has lived an inspiring life of faith, works its way into the common parlance of our everyday vocabulary more often than not. If we know of persons, such as tireless volunteers who give of their time and service selflessly or the person who faces their own personal challenges heroically and without complaint, we might say “What a saint!” While some might think those types of comments might water down the meaning of saint, it’s actually a very good reminder of what all of us are called to be, and how we are called to live, by virtue of our baptism. As Pope Francis tweeted some time ago, “To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone.”

Since the first official canonization, it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals have been officially declared Saints by the Church. Just in our own lifetime it is interesting to note that Pope St. John Paul II canonized 483 Saints and beatified 1,340 additional persons, during his 27-year Pontificate. This month we are privileged as Michiganders to be “hosting” in Detroit the Beatification Mass of Father Solanus Casey, a Capuchin monk who ministered to the poor and sick in Detroit for more than twenty years.. Like so many other holy people, Fr. Solanus came from humble beginnings. He was born on November 25, 1870, on a farm to Irish immigrants, and is said to have suffered dysphilia as a child leaving his voice affected. His deep devotion to the Blessed Mother led him to the Capuchin Friary in Detroit. He was truly an ordinary Midwestern child, just like so many of us, who grew up to be a saint. Fr. Solanus died on July 31, 1957.

So as thousands flock this month to Ford Field in Detroit to participate in the beautiful Beatification Mass for Father Solanus Casey, and while our school children study about the saints and dress up like them, it would be helpful for us to ask ourselves: how can we, having been baptized into the Body of Christ and called to be disciples of Jesus on our path of missionary discipleship, learn to be saints?

The first, and most important, thing we need to understand is that on the day of our baptism, we were each called to be “saints”; in other words, the “call” from God to holiness is a universal call and vocation to everyone: “Be holy because I [am] holy” (see 1 Pt 1:14-16).

St. Paul sometimes addressed his Letters to “the saints” in a particular city (see Eph 1:1; Col 1:2). In this case, St. Paul was speaking of all Christians as the “holy ones,” because he wanted them to understand that they had been made holy because of their baptism and their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church. Second, we need to realize that we are already a part of the “communion of saints” as we say each time we pray the Apostles Creed: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.”

What does that belief mean to us? The “Communion of Saints” is not just an exclusive club for the 10,000 plus members the Church has officially canonized. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “The communion of saints is the Church” (CCC #946). The Catechism further explains that there are three states or divisions: 1) the communion of saints of the living, all of us who are still on our pilgrim journey on earth; 2) the communion of saints of the deceased, or the faithful departed, some of whom are being purified (those in Purgatory); and 3) the communion of saints in Heaven, those who are enjoying eternal glory in the presence of God. (CCC #954)

That’s why this month of November is a wonderful opportunity to remember who we are in the “big picture”. As we celebrate All Saints Day as a Holy Day of Obligation on Wednesday, the first day of November, followed immediately by The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Soul’s Day) on Thursday, November 2nd, we are also encouraged to focus on prayerfully remembering all those who have died throughout the entire month of November. It is due to our belief in the communion of saints that we can assist by our prayers our brothers and sisters “saints” - prayers for those in Purgatory to help move them forward to the fullness of life with God, and for those in Heaven, praying for their intercession on our behalf before the Heavenly Throne of God. Conversely, the Saints in Heaven watch over all of us who

Cómo ser santo

Una de mis experiencias favoritas es asistir a eventos en cualquiera de nuestras parroquias donde la clase de Catecismo o los niños de escuelas católicas hacen presentaciones sobre las vidas de los santos. Algunos de esos eventos patrocinados como “museos vivientes” sobre los santos en los cuales los niños han sido invitados a adoptar un santo, a conocer sobre su vida y luego a presentarse como el santo con vestimenta apropiada. Otros tienen concursos y preguntas, celebrando a su propio santo patrón. Cualquiera que sea el método, ya sean disfrazes creativos o celebraciones alegres, el interés genuino en las vidas de aquellos santos que nos inspiran con sus ejemplos de fe es una gran práctica, no solo para los estudiantes, sino para todos nosotros.

El término “santo”, un término eclesiológico muy precioso otorgado oficialmente por la Iglesia después de un largo proceso con exámenes exhaustivos sobre una persona que ha vivido una vida de fe inspiradora, a menudo se abre paso en el lenguaje común de nuestro vocabulario cotidiano con más frecuencia que no. Si conocemos personas, como voluntarios incansables que prestan su tiempo y servicio desinteresadamente o la persona que enfrenta sus propios desafíos heroicos y sin quejas, podríamos decir “¡Qué santo/a!”

Mientras que algunos podrían pensar que ese tipo de comentarios pueden diluir el significado de “santo, en realidad es muy un buen recordatorio de que todos nosotros estamos llamados a ser, y cómo estamos llamados a vivir, en virtud de nuestro bautismo. Como el Papa Francisco tuiteó hace un tiempo, “Ser santos no es un privilegio para unos pocos, sino una vocación para todos”.

Desde la primera canonización oficial, se estima que más de 10,000 individuos han sido declarados oficialmente Santos por la Iglesia. Justamente en nuestra propia vida es interesante notar que el Papa San Juan Pablo II canonizó a 483 santos y beatificó a 1,340 personas adicionales, durante su pontificado de 27 años. Este mes tenemos el privilegio de que los habitantes de Michigan estén “auspiciando” en Detroit la misa de beatificación del padre Solanus Casey, un monje capuchino que ministerió a los pobres y enfermos en Detroit durante más de veinte años. Como tantas otras personas santas, el P. Solanus vino de orígenes humildes. Nació el 25 de noviembre de 1870, en una granja de inmigrantes irlandeses y se dice que sufrió diarrea cuando era niño y que dejó su voz afectada. Su profunda devoción a la Santísima Madre lo condujo al Convento de los Capuchinos en Detroit. Era verdaderamente un niño común del Medio Oeste, como muchos de nosotros, quien creció para ser santo.

Así que mientras miles de personas acuden este mes a Ford Field en Detroit para participar en la hermosa Misa de beatificación para el padre Solanus Casey, y mientras nuestros niños escolares estudian sobre los santos y se disfrazan como ellos, sería útil que nos preguntemos: ¿cómo podemos nosotros, después de haber sido bautizados en el Cuerpo de Cristo y llamados a ser discípulos de Jesús en nuestro camino de discipulado misionero, aprender a ser santos?

Lo primero y más importante que debemos entender es que el día de nuestro bautismo, fuimos llamados a ser “santos”; en otras palabras, el “llamado” de Dios a la santidad es un llamado universal y una vocación para todos: “Sed santos porque yo soy santo” (véase 1 P 1, 14-16).

San Pablo a veces dirigía sus Cartas a “los santos” en una ciudad en particular (ver Efesios 1: 1; Col 1: 2). En este caso, San Pablo estaba hablando de todos los cristianos como los “santos”; porque quería que entendieran que habían sido santificados por su bautismo y su relación con Jesucristo y Su Cuerpo, la Iglesia.

En segundo lugar, debemos darnos cuenta de que ya somos parte de la “comunión de los santos” nos sentamos cada vez que rezamos el Credo de los Apóstoles que “Creo en el Espíritu Santo, la santa Iglesia Católica, la comunión de los santos, el perdón de los pecados, la resurrección del cuerpo y la vida eterna. Amén.”

¿Qué significa esa creencia para nosotros? La “Comunión de los Santos” no es solo un club exclusivo para los más de 10,000 miembros que la iglesia ha canonizado oficialmente. Como dice el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica: “La comunidad de los santos es la Iglesia” (CIC # 946). El Catecismo explica además que hay tres estados o divisiones: 1) la comunión de los santos de los vivos, todos los que todavía estamos en nuestro viaje peregrino en la tierra; 2) la comunión de los santos de los fallecidos, o los fieles difuntos, algunos de los cuales se purifican (los que están en el Purgatorio); y 3) la comunión de los santos en el Cielo, aquellos que disfrutan la gloria eterna en la presencia de Dios. (CCC # 954)

Es por eso que este mes de noviembre es una oportunidad maravillosa para recordar quiénes somos en el “panorama general”. Mientras celebramos el Día de Todos los Santos como día de precepto el miércoles, el primer día de noviembre, seguido inmediatamente por la Conmemoración de todos los Fieles Difuntos (el Día de Todos los muertos) el jueves de noviembre, también se nos anima a concentrarnos...
Jubilee couples share their legacies of love

By Nicole L.V. Mullis

The percentage of married couples who reach their 50th anniversary hovers at 5-7 percent depending on the research study. On October 1st, Bishop Bradley celebrated Mass with more than 70 diocesan couples who have reached this rare milestone.

Bishop Bradley commended these couples for their legacy of love, referring to Pope Francis’ address to married couples in 2016. “Through your witness, you preach more boldly, with more voice, and with greater power than any preacher on a Sunday,” Pope Francis said. Three of those special couples shared their witness with us.

Jerry and Elaine Ulrich, St. Joseph Church, Battle Creek

Jerry and Elaine met because of blood. Elaine was a medical technologist on the blood-draw team for the University of Michigan hospital and Jerry was working in the lab while earning his MBA. “I wanted to be sure I was at the lab at 7 o’clock every morning so I could get on her blood-drawing team,” Jerry said.

Elaine credits a long marriage to communication. “Talk to each other about everything,” Elaine said. “Communication is key.” Walkie-talkies or not.

Jerry recalls actress Ann Margaret’s words about her marriage to Roger Smith when giving advice. “[Ann Margaret] said they were determined to make it and they were kind to each other,” Jerry said. “That really rang a bell with me. [kindness] is number one.”

Elaine credits a long marriage to communication. “Talk to each other about everything,” Elaine said. “Communication is key.” Walkie-talkies or not.

Carolyn and Jim Morrison, St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater

Carolyn and Jim were high school sweethearts, although they didn’t attend the same high school. She lived in Coldwater and he lived in Three Rivers.

“We had plenty of room for growth,” Carolyn said. They grew in similar directions, attending Michigan State University together and eventually getting married at “our little stone church” on September 9, 1967. It would be one of the last weddings in the old St. Charles Borromeo Church, as the new one opened in 1967.

Their first anniversary was spent in a hospital. Carolyn was pregnant with their first child and Jim was in a coma after a terrible motorcycle accident. “I didn’t expect ‘sickness’ or the ‘worse’ in the first year,” Carolyn said.

Jim recovered and they went on to have four children and eight grandchildren, living a “blessed” life in Coldwater.

Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas on St. Nicholas Day with Bishop Bradley on December 2nd. Join Bishop Bradley for an afternoon of Christmas joy celebrating the feast day of St. Nicholas, from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Crowley Center of St. Augustine Cathedral. Activities include cookie decorating, crafts, and a special reading of the story of St. Nicholas by Bishop Bradley.

For more information, visit diokzoo.org or contact: Annette Brennan, abrennan@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0126.
Diocesan cemetery offers final resting place among family

By Nicole L.V. Mullis

Most Catholic families have a pew they sit in so regularly it becomes their pew. One can’t help but think of this while walking the sprawling grounds of Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery. Since the 1880s, generations of Catholics have found their rest here, surrounded by family in a medley of headstones.

“I like to think of [a Catholic cemetery] as the end chapter,” Mount Olivet sexton Shaun Albertson said. “Most people get baptized in a church and go through the sacraments. This is the final chapter of that book — your life story within the faith of the church.”

Four generations of Albertson men have overseen that last chapter in Kalamazoo, digging the graves, comforting the grieving, and tending the consecrated grounds of Mount Olivet and Catholic Riverside.

“My family has done this for a long time,” Albertson said. Albertson’s great-great-grandfather was a Kalamazoo police officer, but the woman he loved didn’t want the worry that comes with being an officer’s wife. He took the sexton job in 1922, which then passed to his sons, then his grandson in 1972, and, in 2003, his great-grandson.

“My father sat me down one day and said, ‘There’s one club we are all going to join and it’s the Death Club,’ ” Albertson said. “It doesn’t matter where you are on the totem pole of life. You can be at the top or the bottom or in the middle, we’re all going to join.”

Coming from a long line of Catholics, Albertson has more than 60 relatives buried here — some in the old section, where his great-great-grandparents rest, and some in the new section, where his father rests.

Many priests and religious are here, including Bishop Paul V. Donovan, the first bishop of Kalamazoo. Bishop Donovan is interred in the mausoleum, a quiet building full of light where services can be held in poor weather.

Unlike other cemeteries, statues and raised tombstones are encouraged in Mount Olivet. Rules are not heavily enforced, as Albertson is one of a two-man crew tending over 10,000 headstones. Besides, you do for family.

“We tend to give people a little more leniency,” Albertson said. “It’s generally a six-year window from a death to where [loved ones] start really slowing down on maintaining and keeping up [the gravesite].” That’s when Albertson takes over — trimming, tending, and mending.

Times have changed since Albertson’s great-great-grandfather took the post. Large family plots have yielded to smaller ones. People are living longer and having fewer children. Cremation makes gravesites more compact. Even the reason people visit the graves has changed.

“Genealogy has become a really big project,” Albertson said, who often helps families, even freelancers, locate old graves.

There has also been a change in how people learn about Catholic cemeteries.

“My dad always said the families know about the cemetery,” Albertson said. “The difference is now you have new families that don’t have that relationship. Advertisement needs to happen to let people know we are here.”

What hasn’t changed is nature of death, whether of the young or the old. “Like dad said, the Death Club only accepts members,” Albertson said. “Age is what you make of it and how you handle yourself in the days you are given.”

And when those earthly days are over, it is good to rest with family, surrounded by your brothers and sisters in Christ.

To learn more about Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery, please contact Shaun Albertson at (269) 342-9585 or MtOlivetCemetery@sbcglobal.net.

Why should Catholics be buried in a Catholic Cemetery? It is only natural that those who share the same faith in life will wish to carry on that sense of community in death. When it comes to the issue of death, the sensibilities and needs of Catholics are unique and call for certain practices in the handling and care of the remains of the deceased. Therefore, in the blessed grounds of a Catholic cemetery there are safeguards mandated by the Church’s Canon Law which guarantees permanence, reverence and respect for the remains of the deceased.

Do Catholic Cemeteries accept cremated remains? Yes, in 1963 the Catholic Church eliminated its prohibition against cremation. Although cremation represents a means of disposition preferred by many, it is not the “final disposition” burial is. Human cremated remains are still the body of the deceased just in a different form. Thus, cremated remains should be treated with the same respect as the “full” body is treated prior to cremation. They should be buried in a cemetery. Honoring and respecting the deceased by keeping their remains safe, undisturbed, and memorialized is a time honored tradition. It is important for family members and future generations to visit these graves even if only once.

Can someone who committed suicide be buried in a Catholic Cemetery? Yes. It is recognized that those who died from the act of suicide deserve understanding and compassion. The deceased may have suffered from a serious psychological instability or overwhelming fear and confusion. Therefore, the church offers funeral and burial rites for those who may have died as a result of suicide. The American edition of the Catholic ritual includes prayers evoke forgiveness for the departed and consolation to their family.
Formando Líderes en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo

por la Dra. Angelica Valdes, Coordinadora de ISAK

El pasado sábado 23 de Septiembre en el Crowley Center de la Catedral de San Agustín tuvimos la dicha de celebrar la ceremonia de graduación de la segunda generación del Instituto San Agustín de Kalamazoo (ISAK). Después de tres años de formación pastoral más de 90 alumnos de las Diócesis de Kalamazoo, Lansing y Grand Rapids lograron su objetivo y recibieron de manos del Obispo Paul Bradley su diploma y bendición para continuar su servicio pastoral en nuestra comunidad hispana que cada día crece más en nuestras parroquias.

En Agosto del 2014 iniciamos con mucho éxito y aceptación las clases en el Instituto. Este segundo grupo de estudiantes tuvo la característica de ser muy numeroso y diverso contando con representantes de tres diócesis hermanas. Estuvo formado por alumnos que fueron recomendados por los párrocos de 14 parroquias que vieron en ellos el deseo de aprender más sobre la palabra de Dios y su Iglesia pero sobre todo el de continuar sirviendo y enriqueciendo sus ministerios de sus parroquias.

Alumnos que crecieron en Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Perú, República Dominicana y Estados Unidos llenaron de riqueza cultural a nuestro grupo ya que cada uno tenía una inmensa gama de experiencias y vivencias de sus tierras por compartir. Lo más enriquecedor siempre fue que aunque veníamos de diferentes lugares nuestra fe en Jesús y María siempre fue la misma.

Durante estos tres años contamos con la gran oportunidad de un equipo de profesores quienes han compartido con excelencia sus conocimientos y fe. Con su ejemplo y experiencia nos han hecho un llamado a continuar estudiando la palabra de Dios para fortalecer nuestra fe para el servicio de nuestro ministerio y nuestras familias. De todos ellos aprendimos algo positivo que lo llevaremos siempre con nosotros en nuestras vidas.

Una vez más felicitamos a todos los graduados por su trabajo y perseverancia durante más de 3 años de formación pastoral y liderazgo. Ha sido una gran bendición conocerlos y ver su crecimiento espiritual y personal durante este tiempo. Nos deseo que continúen engrandeciendo su conocimiento de la palabra de Dios y continúen con alegría sirviendo a sus parroquias sembrando semillas de amor y fe en sus familias y comunidades.

Bienvenida Hermana Yurany Henao Zuluaga

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo le da la bienvenida a la Hermana Yurany, quien estará con nosotros por unos años. Esta es su biografía:

- Yo soy la hermana Yurany Henao Zuluaga nací en el municipio de Guarne en el departamento de Antioquia en Colombia; soy la segunda de dos hermanos y pertenezco a la congregación Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu desde hace 10 años; realicé mis votos perpetuos el 4 de junio de este año 2017. Desde que empecé este camino dentro de la congregación, he descubierto la importancia y la necesidad de conocer y amar más al Espíritu Santo, ya que Él es el amor y es quien debe guiar, sostener y acompañar todo nuestro hacer y ser de cristianos. En estos 10 años he tenido la oportunidad de prestar mi servicio misionero en varios lugares donde he experimentado la presencia y el amor de Dios en cada una de las culturas que he conocido; tuve mi experiencia apostólica en el segundo año de noviciado en la costa Ecuatoriana especializada con afro descendientes; también en Colombia en el departamento del Guaviare, el cual hace parte de la selva colombiana, de allí pase a la Guajira, ubicado al norte del país y también en Ibagué donde tuve la oportunidad de trabajar con las obras misionales pontificias de la arquidiócesis. En el segundo año de juniorado, fui enviada a trabajar durante 2 años en la Patagonia Argentina en la ciudad de Comodoro Rivadavia, estando allí me enviaron al país de Chile para prestar mi servicio misionero en la diócesis de Calama ubicada en el desierto de Atacama al norte del país; allí trabajé especialmente con la pastoral parroquial y la renovación Católica Carismática. Llegue a Estados unidos el pasado 16 de septiembre y vivíré en la ciudad de Bangor con mis hermanas de comunidad; estoy muy contenta de comenzar esta nueva experiencia en la diócesis de Kalamazoo donde también podré crecer en la fe y servir con alegría a quienes Dios me envie. Le pido al Espíritu Santo que guíe siempre mis pasos en esta nueva etapa de mi vida consagrada, me acojo a la intercesión de la Virgen María bajo la adovación de nuestra señora de Guadalupe y también me enco- miendo a sus oraciones. Dios los bendiga a todos.

La Muerte y la Eternidad

Por Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

Quisiera basarme en este artículo en la manera en que San Francisco de Asís concilió la muerte y la eternidad, primero Francisco de Asís fue un hombre lleno del Espíritu Santo el cual le inspiró llamar a todos hombres, entre ellos llama hermana a la muerte.

“...extendió los brazos y mirando hacia la puerta de la choza dijo con voz apagada: ‘bienvenida seas, hermana mía, muerte’ no sé por qué todo el mundo te teme tanto, amable hermana. Eres la hermana liberadora, llena de piedad” (libro el hermano de Asís pág. 408). Y dijo también refiriéndose a la Señora hermana muerte, “nos cierras las puertas de la vida y nos abres las puertas de la vida”. También añadió al cantico del hermano sol esta última estrofa “Abalado seas por la hermana muerte, de la cual todo ser viviente no puede librarse”.

En la carta de San Pablo a los filipenses dice: para mi vida es Cristo y la muerte una ganancia (filipenses 1,21) ¿Por qué estos dos hombres ven la muerte como un regalo tan especial? ¿Qué hacen los hombres ver la muerte como un regalo tan especial? ¿Es realmente una respuesta sencilla, la muerte nos libera de la esclavitud del pecado, haciendo-nos libres como el polvo y elevando nuestro espíritu hacia la patria eterna. Ella nos conduce hacia la eternidad, podríamos decir la muerte es la re- cepcionista que tiene las llaves del lugar donde habitaremos y ella nos conduce hasta donde nosotros viviremos por toda la eternidad.

La mejor manera para no temer a la muerte es estar preparados para la eternidad viviendo una vida de gracia y de entrega a Dios, nuestra vida te- rrena es poca pero la vida futura es eterna. Bendiciones para todos.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Misa bilingüe en la Catedral. Preside Nuestro Obispo Paul J. Bradley, Obispo de la Diócesis. — Diciembre 9, 2017

Como todos los años, el Señor Obispo, Paul Bardley, preside en la catedral la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Este año la celebración diocesana de la Virgen de Guadalupe será el sábado, 9 de diciembre del 2017 a las 6:00 p.m. en la Catedral de San Agustín, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Y se sugiere el día 12 o 13 celebrar en sus parroquias locales. Reserve su tiempo para acompañar a la Virgen María en su día. Las personas que deseen pueden usar vestidos típicos de su país de origen y llevar flores para ofrecer a la Virgen María y compartir con otras personas. Después de la Misa habrá una recepción para todos.

Bilingual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Presiding Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Obispo de la Diócesis. As in past years, the Most Rev. Paul Bradley will preside the bilingual Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year the Diocesan celebration will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. And it is suggested to be celebrated at your local parishes on the 12th or 13th. We hope you can reserve some time to accompany the Virgin Mary on her day. It is suggested to dress in traditional clothing of different countries of origin. It is also suggested for families to bring flowers to offer the Virgin Mary. There will be a reception after Mass.

La CONTRIBUTORS: 

Angelica Valdes, Coordinadora de ISAK

“I waiting in Joyful Hope”

A nombre de todo el Instituto San Agustín de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo agradecemos infinitamente al equipo de mentores y voluntarios que durante estos tres años nos han brindado su apoyo enorme durante las clases, retiros, seguimientos y cuidado de niños. Nueve-mente muchas gracias a todos y cada uno por su generosidad y apoyo en todo momento a este programa de formación pastoral y liderazgo.

Gracias al apoyo de ustedes y donadores anónimos con mucha alegría les informamos que el próximo curso 2017-2020 inicia el sábado 18 de Noviembre en Kalamazoo. Si esta interesada en seguir con su formación pastoral comuníquese con su párroco para obtener más información o con la Dr. Angelica Valdes al 269-903-0155, avalde@diokzoo.org.

Calendario/Calendar

Noviembre/ November

4 (Sábado): 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. V Encuentro Diocesano de Pastor Hispana. Todos los hispanos de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo están invitados a este Encuentro Diocesano. Lugar: Crowley Center de la Catedral de San Agustín, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Obispo estará presente.


8: ISAK – Último día para enviar su inscripción

18: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. ISAK – Primer Año de Formación.

23 – 24: Centro Pastoral Diocesano estará cerrado por el Día de Acción de Gracias.

Diciembre/ December

2 (Sábado): 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo.

9 (Sábado): 6 p.m. Misa Bilingüe, Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Catedral de San Agustín, Kalamazoo, MI. Preside el Señor Obispo Paul J. Bradley.

16 (Sábado): Comienzan las Posadas y Novenas Navideñas

25 – 1 Enero 2: Centro Pastoral Diocesano estará cerrado debido a Navidad y Año Nuevo

Enero/January

1 – 2: Centro Pastoral Diocesano estará cerrado debido al Año Nuevo

12 (Viernes): 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Reunión de Migrant Resource Council (agencias que ofrecen servicio a la Comunidad Mi-grante).
Fatima prayer at the end of each decade, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Divine Praises and group gathered at Allegan County Park on Gun Lake for a “Public Square Rosary Rally” which includes Parishioners from St. Therese Parish, Wayland and Ss Cyril & Methodius, Gun Lake, (shown above) joined Nov. 11 – 16 children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and community. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse. If you have some other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate counselor Lissette.

Jubilee couples — Continued article, page 4
Carolyn credits their faith, which she considers “invaluable”.

“Our faith has carried us through a lot,” Carolyn said. “Life is a journey. There are highs and lows, but you have a partner for life.” Carolyn also credits laughter. “We have a lot of humor in our marriage,” Carolyn said. “It’s really important because life is really strange sometimes.”

Deacon Larry and Barbara Kasuboski, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis
Larry and Barbara didn’t have a first date, they had a first weekend. Larry was home on leave from the Marines and Barbara was visiting his sister for the weekend. They attended 40 hours of devotion together, interspersing water skiing and polka dancing with confession and adoration.

“I didn’t have much time because I had to plunge to see if she would wait for me and she said sure. We wrote letters back and forth. I called her my mail-order bride.”

His mail-order bride became his real bride on May 20, 1967. Their love led to four children, ten grandchildren and, eventually Larry’s ordination to the permanent diaconate.

Barbara advises married couples to always “water the tree” they planted on their wedding day.

“Grow together in your faith and love,” Barbara said. “Date each other, study together, learn together. When it gets hard, God is your third partner.”

God is the glue that holds you together. When it gets hard, God is your third partner. “God is the glue that holds you together,” Larry said. “We’ve been blessed,” Barbara said.

Jill and Bob’s wedding day was celebrated at St. Bernard, St. Joseph, and St. George Roman Catholic Parishes in Kalamazoo. It was a beautiful day in Kalamazoo with the sun shining and the temperature in the 70’s.

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.

Jane: My husband Dean likes to reflect on the fact that his family has three agricultural districts in the state of Michigan named after them: The Knuth Drain and the Schaefer Drain, both near Hopkins, and the Reddiciflle Drain near Speaker in the thumb. It doesn’t mean his ancestors were good farmers, it only means they knew how to dig clay. Jesus didn’t tell any parables about drain-diggers, maybe because he was living in a dryer climate. He talked about shepherds, vineyard workers, plowmen and fisherman. I wonder what kind of story he would have come up with if he lived among men who wielded shovels for a living.

Ellen: My workmates and I arrived at a Habitat for Humanity project the other day to the news that, thanks to torrential rain over the previous days, the build was behind schedule and the fun tasks of framing and siding that had been intended for us instead going to be replaced with something more urgent: digging the house foundation trenches.

An hour in, covered in clay and now wearing boots over our boots to keep from sinking into the mud, we were less nonchalant about the day ahead. Nevertheless, this was the work to be done and we kept going. During a stop for Gatorade, one of my coworkers mentioned how much he liked this kind of day. “It’s hard work, but it’s relaxing.”

There is something meditative about shoveling. You develop a rhythm and stick to it for as long as your body allows. The goal, be it depth or straightening of the trench, is always in sight though hard to reach. With focus, we dug, enjoying a peace of mind and surety of purpose not often found during deskwork. There is plenty of time to talk and listen while digging. Your head might be down and your eyes focused on the work, but thoughts and laughter are easily shared.

Jane: Ellen’s story about digging is a tiny parable for me. The next time I drive by some people using shovels, I’m going to see them differently. I’m going to know about how their muscles ache, and I’m also going to admire the simplicity of having a clear purpose.

Our ancestors were ditch diggers. As I sit at a desk, typing on a computer, it’s good to keep that in mind.
Dowagiac Catholics band together to improve community

The Pokagon Fund and Saint Francis Outreach of Holy Maternity of Mary and Sacred Heart of Mary Churches of Dowagiac are collaborating to feed 100 hungry children this school year.

Saint Francis Outreach (SFO) is a ministry started in 2015 by the two Catholic Churches under the leadership of Rev. Kevin Covert who was pastor at that time. SFO’s mission is to do Christ’s work by reaching out to help individuals and families in the Dowagiac community.

The Dowagiac Public Schools BackPack Program is just one example of ecumenical cooperation. Initially, the Pokagon United Methodist Church funded a BackPack Program at one school in Dowagiac. In 2016 SFO adopted the program at another school. This year Sister Lakes Community Church has joined the program. With the collaboration of SFO and these two churches, 100 hungry children will be fed. Every weekend from October 6th, 2017 to June 8th, 2018, 25 children at each of the four public schools in Dowagiac will receive six healthy meals and snacks in their Friday “backpacks.” All of this is thanks to the generous donors to SFO, the Pokagon United Methodist Church and the Pokagon Fund, New Buffalo Mich.

In August, SFO received a $10,000 grant from the Pokagon Fund to support the Dowagiac Public Schools BackPack Program. The counselors for the participating elementary schools will select the 25 children from each school who will anonymously participate in the program. The children will be chosen from among those who qualify for the Federal School Lunch Program.

The Dowagiac BackPack Program is just one of the ways SFO helps its neighbors. SFO supports the local food Pantry, sponsored by Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Dowagiac, and was instrumental in facilitating the relationship between Burgess-Lee Memorial Hospital and The Stepping Stone, a Dowagiac charity that offers after school tutoring and programming, with food prepared at the hospital.

SFO volunteers also provide five free clothing distributions each year. This month, on November 18th, SFO will hold its final Clothing Distribution of 2017. Generous donations have made it possible for the organization to $1,800 of children’s winter jackets, hats, gloves, and blankets, as well as gently used winter clothes and bedding for all shoppers. All items are available at no cost.

For more information you are welcome to contact one of the Saint Francis Outreach Officers:

Jeanne Jourdan – jourdan@nd.edu, Jodi Hannapel – jodihannapel@gmail.com,
Ann Kleva – kleva4@nd.edu or LuAnn Scott – luscott1953@frontier.com.

Contemplative Outreach

December 2, 2017 • 9 a.m-12:30 p.m.
Silence is often described as the language of God. If your spiritual journey has created a hunger for a deeper experience of prayerful silence in God’s presence, join us for an introduction to the process and practice of Centering Prayer. What is Centering Prayer? It is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplation in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

Contemplative Outreach is a ministry started in 2015 by the two Catholic Churches under the leadership of Rev. Kevin Covert who was pastor at that time. SFO’s mission is to do Christ’s work by reaching out to help individuals and families in the Dowagiac community.