Bishop Bradley convenes priests for feedback on Diocesan Pastoral Plan

As the one-year anniversary of the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan approaches, Bishop Bradley convened meetings with all the priests to elicit frank and honest feedback. Last year Bishop Bradley announced the creation of 28 Parish Collaboratives (one to three Parishes grouped together) from the 59 parishes and missions within the diocese. Priests were assigned as pastors to each of the 28 parish Collaboratives while others received appointments as Parochial Vicars, Spiritual Chaplains, Hospital Chaplains. More than 80 percent of the priests received new pastoral assignments.

Last year the Diocese engaged the Catholic Leadership Institute to assist with a number of different trainings to best prepare for the transition to the Parish Collaborative model. In addition, parish transition teams were created and diocesan staff members were assigned to individual collaboratives as needed resources.

Some Parish Collaboratives have come together to plan new activities and share resources. Confirmation students from the Collaborative of Holy Family, Decatur; Sacred Heart, Silver Creek and Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac will have a joint confirmation with Bishop Bradley this Spring. St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, while a single parish Collaborative, answered Bishop Bradley’s invitation to begin a renewal program this past January with the introduction of the Alpha program. St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis and Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg Parish Collaborative began publishing a joint bulletin with the assistance of Diocesan Publications.

Does your Parish Collaborative have a story to share? Send to vcssna@diokzoo.org.

On March 5, Bishop Bradley celebrated the Rite of Election, where catechumens affirm their desire to enter the Church and sign their names into the Book of the Elect. They now enter the final stages of preparation and prayer leading up to their affirmation of desire to enter the Church and sign their names into the Book of the Elect. Soon above is Barbara Vincent, Elect. They now enter the final stages of preparation and prayer leading up to their affirmation of desire to enter the Church and sign their names into the Book of the Elect.

Commercials highlight Catholic legacy around the state

A television advertising project has begun running locally and across the state to highlight the charitable, health care, and educational work carried out by the seven (arch)dioceses of the Catholic Church in Michigan. The Freedom to Serve project, spearheaded by Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) began in late February and is scheduled to run through May with both sixty and thirty second commercials on area cable and network television.

“Freedom to Serve” aims to, “reinforce the notion that faith-based health care, charitable, and educational entities here in the state are an inclusive and diverse component of our local communities that serve all in the spirit of ‘loving thy neighbor,’” states David Maluchnik, vice president of communications for MCC. Television spots began airing on local stations throughout March. To view visit: www.CatholicServe.com.

Did you know the average cost to educate a seminarian each year is $50,000. That close to $90,000 was raised over goal last year and returned to parishes? These are just a few of the facts coming in this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal mailing which is mailed to all registered parishioners in late April. See page 7 for additional feature.

A television advertising project has begun running locally and across the state to highlight the charitable, health care, and educational work carried out by the seven (arch)dioceses of the Catholic Church in Michigan. The Freedom to Serve project, spearheaded by Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) began in late February and is scheduled to run through May with both sixty and thirty second commercials on area cable and network television. “For decades, the local Catholic community has played a vital role providing our most vulnerable brothers and sisters with the material and spiritual care necessary to uphold their human dignity,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. “This rich tradition of service to others is only possible when faith-based agencies, health care providers, and schools are able to operate in concert with their long-standing faith tradition and mission.”

The Catholic Church’s Freedom to Serve advertising effort addresses the right for Catholic charitable agencies, health care facilities, and schools to provide services to the general public in accordance with their faith-based mission, without unnecessary or burdensome intervention from the state or federal government. Two sixty second commercials are currently running locally on cable systems and on each day of the week. In a spot titled “Little Simple Things,” the executive director of a Catholic end-of-life home speaks about how her faith informs the care she provides to those living their last days in peace and prayer. A second spot titled “Hands of Service and Healing” features the charitable work carried out by Catholic Charities in Flint as one of the largest providers of free water to residents of the area. Additional commercials to be on television in the next couple months highlight how Catholic health care and Catholic education care for and educate others in the spirit of service and love for neighbor.

Across Michigan in 2016, Catholic elementary and secondary schools educated approximately 52,500 students in 222 schools; some 480,000 Michiganders received charitable care from Catholic social service providers; and more than 5.2 million Michigan citizens received health care services from 22 Catholic hospitals — all without regard to race, religion, or income. According to the 2016 Official Kenedy Directory, there are approximately 1.8 million Catholics in the State of Michigan, which represents 18 percent of the total population of the state. To watch the short videos and television commercials produced for the Freedom to Serve project, visit www.CatholicServe.com.
It was the biggest party of the year — an end-of-summer celebration of a winning basketball season for all the players and cheerleaders.

And I wasn’t invited.

This was devastating to my 13-year-old psyche during the time of life when questions surrounding one’s social status occupy a large portion of your brain. As a non-cheerleader (though I was a proud team statistician for the 8th grade boys basketball team) I was overlooked on the invite list. What I was sure meant was a nice gesture by his parents who opened their home to more than 20 middle-schoolers, to me being left out felt like the end of the world.

Wanting just a glimpse of the fun, my friend and I lurked around in the dusk on the evening of the party, ducking under the shrubs framing the house where the party was happening, just to get a glimpse. We really couldn’t see much given both our height and need to be discreet. And of course, our need to be home before dark.

You’ve probably had a similar experience — a feeling of being left out or feeling on the periphery of something really fantastic. You might catch a glimpse but are not quite fully involved.

Each year people flock to Easter Mass. It’s an open invitation. But what’s truly wonderful is that the invitation doesn’t have a time stamp on it — it doesn’t expire. It can be redeemed any Sunday of the year.

For the greatest party we’ve had the honor of being invited to as special guests is the one that happens at each Mass — the one where we get to partake in the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist. The one that wouldn’t be a reality without that first Easter.

But are we extending the invitation? It’s funny when you think about all the things we invite people to — barbecues, card games, graduations — and yet we’re often shy to invite them to Mass. Just as we love sharing in life’s milestones with parties, we should share the Easter joy as the precious gift it is.

Pope Francis invites us to be more open to “encounter.” “We are accustomed to a culture of indifference and we must strive and ask for the grace to create a culture of encounter,” he said, “of a fruitful encounter, of an encounter that restores to each person his or her own dignity as a child of God, the dignity of a living person.”

This Easter may you be inspired to spread the joy of the Risen Lord with someone who may be lurking just outside in the shrubs and invite them into the party.

Pope Francis APRIL Intentions
Young People — That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

DIOCESAN LEGAL COUNCIL TRANSITION:

Mr. Ian Kennedy, who has served as legal counsel to the Diocese since 2006, has been named in-house legal counsel for Kalsec, an international spice manufacturing company based in Kalamazoo, Mich. “I am profoundly grateful for the more than 12 years of dedicated service and wise counsel Ian has provided the Diocese,” said Bishop Bradley. “He has been instrumental in a number of initiatives and oftentimes his valuable work is done behind the scenes. We will miss him, but congratulate him on this new and exciting chapter in his career.”

Mr. Jamin Herold has been appointed Executive Director of Parish Life and Lay Leadership effective immediately. Jamin has been working as both acting interim Executive Director of Parish Life and Lay Leadership as well as Associate Director, New Evangelization and Catechesis since the departure of Deacon Kurt Lucas last September 2016. Jamin brings a wealth of experience to this leadership position reporting directly to Bishop Bradley including his previous pastoral ministry work in parishes as well as key management positions with Target and Denver Mattress.

Please join me in welcoming Jamin to this new role.

Mr. Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Parish Life and Lay Leadership Secretariat has been appointed to the key responsibility areas of Young Adult ministry and adult ministries and programs within the Parish Life and Lay Leadership Secretariat. The responsibility area of youth ministry will shift to the Secretariat of Catholic Education and New Evangelization.

In light of these appointments and responsibility shifts, Jamin’s former position has been slightly retooled. The position will now be Associate Director of Catechetics and Youth Ministry for the Secretariat of Catholic Education and New Evangelization. This position will report directly to Margaret Erich, Superintendent/Executive Director. Interviews are currently underway for this position.

Mr. Conor Dugan of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP has been appointed as legal counsel to the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Dugan, a Grand Rapids native, earned his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth and his law degree from Notre Dame University. Conor began his career as a legal clerk to Judge Samuel Alito, then on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, and then worked as an appellate litigator for the Civil Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, and then worked as an appellate litigator for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice for seven years. After his time working for the federal government, Conor served as counsel at an appellate and Supreme Court boutique firm in Washington D.C.; Conor returned home to Michigan in 2012 with his wife and four children.

AWARDS:

Dr. Fanny Tabares awarded Delores Huerta Community Service Award
Dr. Fanny Tabares, former Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, was honored with the Delores Huerta Community Service Award. Dr. Tabares, who retired from the Diocese in September 2016, was recognized for her more than 20 years of work with Latinos in Michigan. The honor is awarded during the annual “Celebrating the Legacy of César E. Chávez,” dinner co-hosted by WMU’s Division of Multicultural Affairs with the Southwest Michigan César E. Chávez Committee and area businesses. Also recognized was Dr. John M. Dunn, WMU president, (and St. Thomas More parishioner) who received the Tri-Community Award. The award goes to an individual whose community involvement exemplifies the same ideals of justice and equality shown by civil rights and social justice icons Chávez, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

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Easter: the glorious celebration of Jesus’ ultimate Victory and of Hope restored!

Happy Easter! Following the 40 long days of Lenten penance and self-de- dication, those two words convey the joy of what Easter means for all of us, believers and non-believers alike. Easter is the holiest day of the Church Year; Easter is the greatest feast in our liturgical calendar; Easter is the day when even those who are irregular in the practice of their faith know that there is something extraordinarily important that draws people to Easter Mass in extraordinary numbers. The psalm response for Easter Easter day sums up the unique and special joy of this feast: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it — Alleluia!”

The “day” refers to more than just the actual day Jesus rose from the dead, although that is the most special “day” in the history of the world. The Psalm’s reference to the “day” also means a whole new age — a new period of history — a new “time” in our relationship with God. And the Lord, our Loving God, had been planning for this “day” ever since the first human beings’ relationship with God was broken by Original Sin. From that time on, our loving God was planning for the only way possible for His human creation to be reconciled with Him. That solution, of course, could only take place by God sending His only-begotten Son Jesus to become one with us in His humanity while remaining one with God in His divinity. The redemption of humanity and the salvation of the world could only take place through Jesus’ willingness to suffer and die for the sins of the world, and then to be raised in glory which destroyed the ultimate power of sin and death. Easter “day” is the moment that took place; and the “day” of being the beneficiaries of Jesus’ ultimate victory is the day and time in which we live. That’s why all Christians share in Jesus’ ultimate Easter victory, and that’s why we in particular as Catholic Christians live in Easter hope. And that’s why, because of what happened on that first Easter, we live in the “day” — the new age of hope — that God wanted us to live in with our relationship with Him restored through Jesus’ redemptive act bringing us salvation. Our hope of obtaining our eternal salvation at the end of our lives in this world is now possible. And that’s why we proclaim: “This is the Day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it — Alleluia!”

It feels good to proclaim that joyful word — “Alleluia!” — again after 40 days of silence, doesn’t it? I pray that this period of Lent has been a fruitful time for all of us, and that the additional times of prayer each day, the acts of sacrifice that we have offered to God, and the many practices of charity and kindness done in the name of Jesus to those in need have resulted in each of us growing more deeply in love with God and our neighbor. I pray that all of our special Lenten practices have helped us to do, as we were encouraged on Ash Wednesday, when we were reminded of our mortality and urged to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Jesus summed up all of God’s commands into the two basic commands that He sees as one and the same: to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength; to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. All that we do in our faith lives needs to be focused on helping us to fulfill that one basic commandment so that, when God calls us from this life, we will be able to obtain the great gift Jesus has won for us, our eternal salvation. We don’t have to worry whether God will give it to us — that is the hope restored that we celebrate at Easter. The only concern we have is whether we will choose to continue being faithful to God throughout the remainder of our life journey by loving God and neighbor, and by adhering to the teachings of the Church which Jesus gave us to help us along the way.

Living in Easter hope during the “day” the Lord has made — this new age of human history occasioned by Jesus’ victory — can still be somewhat challenging in the secular world in which we live, where there are many reasons such as increased terrorism and violence for us to live in fear, where there is growing polarization among people and civil human discourse is less evident, and where long-standing moral standards rooted in God’s commands are displaced by a cultural trend that the only principle to follow is one’s personal happiness. Without the gift of faith and without Easter hope, we might be tempted to give into discouragement and to live in fear. The one message that Jesus consistently gave to His Apostles before Easter, and the one that He repeated after Easter is: “Do not be afraid!” Jesus is the reason why we cannot live in fear or give into discouragement. We must be people of Easter hope, and as Pope Francis tells us repeatedly, we must be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel.

Recently the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Administrative Committee, of which I am a member, issued a beautiful statement entitled “Living as a People of God in unsetttled times” (see page 7). This statement encourages those of us
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE
who are experiencing fear in their lives during these unsettled times in our country and in our world with this beautiful sentence: “To live as a people of God is to live in the hope of the resurrection.” I urge you to read the full text of the document and to spend time reflecting on it, and if you can, to share it with others you might know. But the reason why we can all be encouraged in “unsettled times”, even in the midst of fears, and even in a lack of harmony among us is because of Jesus, in whose victory we share and in whose hope we live with confidence.

At the celebration of the Easter Vigil all across the world including in all the parishes of our Diocese, we witness one of the reasons for us to be filled with hope. Thousands of new Catholics are received into the Church (at least 150 of whom here in our Diocese) through baptism or Professions of Faith, confirmation and being united with us through the reception of the Eucharist for the first time. That infusion of “new life” into the Universal Church is a cause for great joy. However, it is also a reason for each of us who are practicing members (and even those who are non-practicing members) of the Catholic Church to examine ourselves on how faithfully we are living our Catholic faith and in being faithful disciples of Jesus. We also need to be sensitive to what kind of examples we are for those who were just newly-welcomed members into the Church this Easter.

What kind of examples are we providing to our family members, to our co-workers, to our fellow parishioners. Our faith has to do with far more than how regularly we come to Mass, how often we go to confession, how much information about our faith we know, or how well we support the Church through our financial offerings and through our active participation. All of those aspects of living our faith are very important. However, our journey of faith is rooted in the personal encounter we each have with the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the degree to which we live that relationship with God in and through the Church. That’s why the Risen Jesus, whose life and mission was completed by the historic Easter event, established the Priesthood on Holy Thursday evening when He gave us the gift of the Holy Eucharist and our priests with the power to continue Jesus’ Presence in the Eucharist, and reaffirmed the gift of Holy Orders on Easter Sunday evening when Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit who continues to guide the Church through the Vicar of Christ on earth, our Holy Father.

Dear Family of Faith, Easter is all about lasting joy and restored hope in the Risen Jesus who has won the victory for us, and in whose victory we share. Easter is about new life in Christ. Easter is about hope restored. Easter is truly joyful when all of us, as Easter people, practice and live our faith by giving witness to the world around us that clearly does not see things as we see them. Because of that we may be challenged because of our faith, and in many parts of the world, our fellow Christians are being persecuted and martyred because of our faith. However, no matter what is happening all around us, we are called to live our faith lives in hope and joy because of Easter. Why? Because: “This is the Day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!” — Alleluia!” Happy Easter!

podemos vivir con temor o desanimarnos. Debemos ser personas de esperanza pascual, y como el Papa Francisco nos dice repetidamente, debemos ser testigos de la alegría del Evangelio.

Recientemente, el Comité Administrativo de la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, del cual soy miembro, emitió una hermosa declaración titulada “Vivir como Pueblo de Dios en tiempos inestables” (véase página 7). Esta declaración anima a aquellos de nosotros que estamos experimentando miedo en nuestras vidas durante estos tiempos inestables en nuestro país y en nuestro mundo con esta hermosa oración: “Vivir como pueblo de Dios es vivir en la esperanza de la resurrección”. Les aconsejo que lean el texto completo del documento y que dediquen tiempo a reflexionar sobre él, y si pueden, que lo compartan con otras personas que puedan conocer. Pero la razón por la que todos podemos ser alentados incluso en “tiempos de incertidumbre”, incluso en medio de temores, e incluso en una falta de armonía entre nosotros es debido a Jesús, en cuya victoria compartimos y en cuya esperanza vivimos con confianza.

En la celebración de la Vigilia Pascual en todo el mundo, incluyendo en todas las parroquias de nuestra Diócesis, somos testigos de una de las razones por las que nos llenamos de esperanza. Miles de nuevos católicos son recibidos en la Iglesia (por lo menos 150 de ellos aquí en nuestra diócesis) a través del bautismo o profesiones de fe, la confirmación y el estar unidos con nosotros a través de la recepción de la Eucaristía por primera vez. Esa infusión de “nueva vida” en la Iglesia Universal es motivo de gran alegría. Sin embargo, también es una razón para que cada uno de nosotros que somos miembros practicantes (e incluso aquellos que no somos practicantes) de la Iglesia Católica, nos examinemos sobre cuán fieles estamos siendo en vivir nuestra fe católica y siendo fieles discípulos de Jesús. También necesitamos ser sensibles a qué clase de ejemplos somos para aquellos que recién fueron nuevos miembros bienvenidos a la Iglesia en esta Pascua. Qué clase de ejemplos estamos dando a los miembros de nuestra familia, a nuestros compañeros de trabajo, a nuestros compañeros feligreses. Nuestra fe tiene que ver con mucho más que la regularidad con la que venimos a misa, la frecuencia con la que vamos a la confesión, cuánta información acerca de nuestra fe sabemos, o cuán bien apoyamos a la Iglesia a través de nuestras ofrendas financieras y nuestra participación activa. Todos estos aspectos de vivir nuestra fe son muy importantes. Sin embargo, nuestro camino de fe está arraigado en el encuentro personal que cada uno tiene con el Dios vivo, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, y en el grado en que vivimos esa relación con Dios en y a través de la Iglesia. Por eso el Jesús Resucitado, cuya vida y misión fue completada por el histórico evento pascual, estableció el Sacerdocio el Jueves Santo por la noche, cuando nos dio el don de la Sagrada Eucaristía y nuestros sacerdotes con el poder de continuar la presencia de Jesús en la Eucaristía, y reafirmó el el don de las Sagradas Ordenes en la noche del domingo de Pascua cuando Jesús estableció el Sacramento de la Penitencia y dio a Sus sacerdotes el poder de perdonar los pecados en Su Nombre. Y fue precisamente por eso que estableció Su Iglesia en el primer Pentecostés cuando Jesús envió al Espíritu Santo prometido que continuó guiando a la Iglesia a través del Vicario de Cristo en la tierra, nuestro Santo Padre.

Querida Familia de Fe, la Pascua es todo acerca del gozo duradero y la esperanza restaurada en el Jesús Resucitado que ha ganado la victoria para nosotros, y en cuya victoria compartimos. La Pascua es una nueva vida en Cristo. La Pascua es la esperanza restaurada. La Pascua es verdaderamente alegre cuando todos nosotros, como pueblo de la Pascua, practicamos y vivimos nuestra fe dando testimonio del mundo que nos rodea que claramente no ve las cosas como las vemos. Debido a esto, podemos ser desafiados a causa de nuestra fe, y en muchas partes del mundo, nuestros hermanos cristianos son perseguidos y martirizados por nuestra fe. Sin embargo, no importa lo que está sucediendo a nuestro alrededor, estamos llamados a vivir nuestras vidas de fe en esperanza y alegría por la Pascua. ¿Por qué? Porque: “Este es el día en que el Señor ha hecho: regocijémonos y alegrémonos en él, ¡Aleluya!” ¡Felices Pascuas!
Head of CRS India visits schools and parishes around the diocese, puts personal face on Rice Bowl

By Sarah DeMott

For Kirtimayi Mishra, working for Catholic Relief Services fulfills a desire to serve vulnerable communities sparked when she lived in a war-torn area. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides critical funds to support Christian ministries and shrines in the Holy Land. The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support ministries and programs that are signs of hope amid these challenges. The Holy Land encompasses Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Rhodes. Twenty-nine parishes provide a space to worship as well as Christian formation, youth and family programs, and pastoral care. Schools serve over 10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of fifty-four shrines in the Holy Land. The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support ministries and programs that are signs of hope amid these challenges. The Holy Land encompasses Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Rhodes. Twenty-nine parishes provide a space to worship as well as Christian formation, youth and family programs, and pastoral care. Schools serve over 10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of fifty-four shrines in the Holy Land.

Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land, April 14, 2017

By Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sanctity of the Human Person

During Holy Week, the Gospel readings come to life in a special way as the liturgy takes us through the events of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants of those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. They face complex political, religious and military challenges which have resulted in war, unrest and instability. Many Christians are fleeing persecutions of ISIS and other Islamic extremists and require basic humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets and medical care.

Taken up in Catholic parishes around the world at the request of the Holy Father, the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides critical funds to support Christian ministries and shrines in the Holy Land. The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support ministries and programs that are signs of hope amid these challenges. The Holy Land encompasses Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Rhodes. Twenty-nine parishes provide a space to worship as well as Christian formation, youth and family programs, and pastoral care. Schools serve over 10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of fifty-four shrines connected to the life of Jesus and the prophets.

For more information about the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land, call Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.
Bishop’s Annual Appeal kicks off this month

Did you know that the average cost of one year of seminary is close to $50,000? Or that $10,000 in scholarships are awarded to outstanding Catholic high schools seniors each year? Or that more than $250,000 is given to the local Catholic Charities and Catholic Community Center, Benton Harbor? These are just a few of the high-lighted ministries, programs and services funded each year by generous support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

The annual fundraising campaign supports the ministries of Bishop Bradley and the Diocesan Pastoral Center offices which also offer many centralized services and support to the 28 Parish Collaboratives (59 parishes/missions) in the Diocese. Each year parishes are given annual targets to raise and any amount of the target is returned to the parish. Last year close to $90,000 was returned to parishes.

In his letter to registered parishioners, Bishop Bradley details his gratitude for the generous support of the campaign and explains in detail this year’s campaign theme, “We are called.”

Your generous financial support makes possible the many ministries, services and pastoral programs which help build God’s kingdom, writes Bishop Bradley. “The funds raised enable us to live our faith, through the recruitment, education and formation programs for diocesan seminarians who one day will be ordained as priests. We live in hope by strengthening our faith through adult faith formation programs such as the Lay Ecclesiastical Ministry Institute (LEMI), marriage preparation programs, professional development workshops for our educators, support of our Immigration Assistance program and our ministry to the growing number of Spanish-speaking Catholics throughout our Diocese. Finally, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal also helps us to live in charity as we reach out to those in need through the support of the various programs and agencies of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo as well as the Catholic Community Center in Benton Harbor.”

More than 20,000 registered parishioners throughout the nine counties of the Diocese will receive a Bishop’s Annual Appeal packet this month including a letter from Bishop Bradley, a pledge card and an infographic detailing where the more than $3 million raised goes. For more information on the Bishop’s Annual Appeal visit: www.diokzoo.org.

Road trip provides stories for retiree’s first published book

Barbara Thierwechter envisioned retirement as a time to rest, maybe catch up on her reading. Her husband, Lou, of 54 years had other ideas. The Blessed Sacrament parishioner, along with her husband, embarked on a seven-week road trip that would become inspiration for Barbara’s book, “Catholic Churches we attend when traveling in our Motor Home,” published by Shuler Books.

“Two weeks after our 50th wedding anniversary I just wanted to rest,” muses Barbara, “but my husband wanted to buy a motor home. So I decided it was a great opportunity to put my journalism degree to use and write about all the churches we would attend for Mass.”

Barbara returned to school at age 45 and earned her degree in journalism from Western Michigan University when she was 60. She worked for a few months for a small newspaper but soon discovered that she preferred feature and creative writing to news writing. After her newspaper stint, Barbara worked for close to 25 years for a senior citizen complex which left her without any time to pursue her writing. So when she and her husband packed up their two cats and embarked on this journey, Barbara was determined to capture the experience through the lens of her Catholic faith.

During the seven-week, 7,500 mile, 18-state-road trip, Barbara and her husband visited seven churches, however the book details the couple’s visit to 27 Catholic churches, including a trip to St. Augustine Cathedral for the annual Diocesan Golden Jubilee Mass to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

In full disclosure, notes Barbara, the trip to the Cathedral was made in their car, “in fact,” she writes, “probably the shortest trip we’ve taken but I wanted to include it because I’d like to let you know how the Lord’s home and ask for His guidance,” she says.

Barbara was recently invited to talk about her adventures and book at St. Margaret’s Parish. Her talk, which she will give wherever invited, details the 30 different blessings she and her husband received along their story.

Schools throughout diocese take advantage of Notre Dame training for Latino Enrollment

Student picture

By Sarah DeMott

Being situated in southwest Michigan, the schools within the diocese serve a diverse population of families, including a substantial proportion of Latino/Hispanic families. As of June 2017, four schools in the Diocese of Kalamazoo will have sent representatives to the University of Notre Dame for training in its Latino Enrollment Institute (LEI), a program created by Notre Dame’s School Advancement Campaign in 2012 in response to data showing Latinos/Hispanics to be the fastest-growing segment in the U.S. Catholic Church.

Each year, one to two schools from each applying diocese are accepted into the program and each attending school can bring three people: the principal, one select support staff/faculty member and the school’s chaplain or pastor.

Representatives from the Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo (CSKG) and Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Three Rivers, attended the LEI in June 2016. Nina Laney, Enrollment and Retention Specialist from the diocese and representatives from St. Mary Catholic School, Paw Paw will attend this year’s Institute held this summer.

The four-day LEI program focuses on empowering principals and select faculty members to create a welcoming and culturally responsive education environment to attract Latino/Hispanic families, including help with marketing and recruitment efforts and team training. Key areas of focus include Latino cultures and traditions, intercultural competency, inviting Latino families personally to Catholic schools, and examples of Catholic schools successfully implementing Latino recruitment efforts.

“Upon returning to our school, we began to set in motion our Latino outreach plan,” said Andra Zommers, St. Augustine Cathedral School principal. “We started by reaching out to a nearby parish that serves a large Hispanic popu-

St. Augustine Cathedral School students are shown above in front a shrine in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Dr. Andra Zommers, principal, attended the Latino Enrollment Institute at Notre Dame University to learn more about outreach to Hispanic families.

According to LEI, 163 Catholic schools from 72 (arch)dioceses around the country have sent representatives to the LEI resulting in some schools experiencing upwards of a 100-percent increase in Latino enrollment.

The program is designed for additional training and support beyond the summer institutes. Each attending school works with a mentor principal from the LEI Design Team over the following academic year through regular contact and an onsite consultation.

For more information on the Latino Enrollment Institute, visit ace.nd.edu

Story Continued — page 11
Q. When did you first start thinking about joining the Church and who had an impact on you for that decision?
A. I first began thinking of joining the Roman Catholic Church in the autumn of 2016. My decision to join the Catholic Church was from my thoughts of how I viewed my aunt Mildred Shaver (Sister Rose Miriam) as she was a nun her whole adult life. And I always admired her for her positive outlook on life, and how happy she was. She was a very loving and charitable person. Another reason I felt led to join the Catholic Church is because I wanted to learn from the original Holy Bible scriptures. My whole live I read from various protestant bibles, until the year 2016 when I started taking RCIA classes. Being able to have the teachings of the whole original Catholic writings of the Holy Bible available to me made me feel complete. I no longer felt like something was missing, or that important information had been taken away from me.

Q. What are some of the most interesting things you’ve learned during the RCIA process?
A. During the RCIA classes I have learned so much that I didn’t know before. One of the things I learned is the Catholic Church is open to the public seven days per week with various hours. I have learned of new prayers and songs, and I am still trying to memorize them all. It makes me happy when during Mass that everyone gives one another the greeting of peace.

Q. What are you most looking forward to during the Easter Vigil?
A. I am looking forward to being baptized during the Easter Vigil. I am looking forward to everything that will take place during the Easter Vigil.

Q. How would you describe your parish community?
A. I view the parish community as Christians who are very active in showing love to God and love to their neighbors.

Q. What advice would you give to anyone considering entering RCIA in the coming year?
A. If anyone is considering entering RCIA class I believe you will really enjoy it. If you miss a class or have any questions about the class you missed or any other questions please be sure to telephone or email your local Fathers who teach the RCIA class.
Catholic Charities honors unsung hero volunteers National Volunteer Week observed April 23 – 29

“Our volunteers have generously shared their prayers, time, treasure, and talents with us,” notes Tim Lieser, Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo (CCDOK) President/CEO. “They have helped CCDOK provide needed services for more than 8,500 of our neighbors in 2016. We simply couldn’t have that kind of impact without them.”

Kristen and Corryn Cipich, Mother and Daughter volunteer team (see below), support Caring Network. On a regular basis they provide needed babysitting services while clients attended programming at the agency; organize a large volume of donations to the Caring Closet and help clients select clothing and baby items in the Caring Closet; They also helped with the annual Thanksgiving basket drive when more than 100 families were sponsored for holiday food and gift baskets. The two tireless volunteers were recently nominated by Catholic Charities for the Kalamazoo-area STAR Volunteer Awards, held each year to honor volunteerism in the Kalamazoo community.

According to Jeannine Boehm, Volunteer Director for Catholic Charities, Kristen and Corryn have a heart for helping others but also are grateful for the impact it makes on their own lives.

“Volunteering helped me develop a level of confidence I didn’t know I had,” said Corryn. Kristen added, “I encourage any family to volunteer together, because it’s a great way to help others, spend time together, and motivate each other to keep going back.”

This month Catholic Charities’ Mission Possible Tours are honoring volunteers and their guests. The tours are open to everyone and this month participants have the opportunity to meet some of the volunteers.

Mission Possible Tour April Dates:
April 13, The Ark Shelter (990 West Kilgore) Noon to 1 p.m.
April 26, Caring Network (1441 South Westnedge) 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Visit ccdok.org to learn more or RSVP to 381-9800.

Pray
Pray for healing for survivors of abuse, protection of children and an end to abuse of all vulnerable people.

Participate
Get involved with your local safe environment office to help train adults and children to prevent, identify and report abuse. Attend any special liturgies being held or offer to help organize a rosary or Holy Hour for child abuse victims.

Promote
Share USCCB resources on social media and offer assistance to your parish to help promote Diocesan victim assistance hotlines and safe environment programs.

All dioceses are required to have a Safe Environment Office, charged with ensuring the diocese, its parishes and schools all adhere to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. In the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Marina Hentz is the Associate Director of the Office of Safe Environment, a position she finds to be a blessing.

“As a mother of two young children this is a topic I am very passionate about,” says Hentz. “I am proud our office is able to facilitate training sessions, education workshops and be a resource for those united in our call to protect the children in our schools and parishes.”

Hentz in her position leading The Office of Safe Environment facilitates criminal background checks on all clergy, employees and volunteers who have contact with children in parishes and schools and offers VIRTUS® program “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” training sessions both on-site at parishes as well as at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Kalamazoo.

“In our ever changing world, especially in the realm of technology, it can be a daunting task to know how to best protect our children from the dangers of predators,” she says. “I am pleased to be able to offer many resources to assist teachers and parents, and my hope is that parents will feel comfortable reaching out to the Office of Safe Environment with any questions.”

In addition the diocese has a Victim Assistance Coordinator and a Trauma Recovery Program which meets regularly throughout the year in both English and Spanish.

Dcn. Pat Hall, pastoral staff, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo is the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. As a former Kalamazoo Public Safety Officer, Dcn. Hall brings a depth of law enforcement experience to his role coupled with his pastoral sensibilities as an ordained permanent deacon.

The Trauma Recovery Program is for anyone who has experienced trauma or abuse and is looking for healing. For more information on the Trauma Recovery Program in English, please contact Dr. Phyllis Florian, (269)381-8917 x223. For the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish, contact Lissette Mira-Amaya at 269-217-0526.

A report of sexual misconduct can be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: (877) 802-0115.

Bishops, Diocese work to focus on child abuse prevention throughout month of April

By Sarah DeMott

It is the responsibility of the entire Church to protect the vulnerable, especially children. April is child abuse prevention month. With the ease of access through electronic media, child abuse of various forms is on the rise; some statistics indicate one in four girls and one in six boys is assaulted before they turn 18.

As part of its “Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal” the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has compiled resources to promote the safety of children. They encourage a three-step approach to raising awareness and observing Child Abuse Prevention Month: pray, participate and promote.

Pray
Pray for healing for survivors of abuse, protection of children and an end to abuse of all vulnerable people.

Participate
Get involved with your local safe environment office to help train adults and children to prevent, identify and report abuse. Attend any special liturgies being held or offer to help organize a rosary or Holy Hour for child abuse victims.

Promote
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The Catholic Difference
By George Weigel
On “owning” the Church

The question of “who owns the Church” has had a stormy history in Catholic America, although the terms of reference have changed considerably over time. In the 19th century, “lay trusteeship” — lay boards that owned parish property and sometimes claimed authority over the appointment and dismissal of pastors — was a major headache for the U.S. bishops. Today, the question is more likely to arise from the wetlands of psychobabble; thus one Midwestern diocesan chancellor recently spoke about a diocesan “needs assessment” that “can be jettisoned; the half-century long struggle about who “owns” Vatican II continues to rage on.”

A serious reflection on the questions, “Who owns the Church?” and “What does this ‘ownership’ mean?” will begin with what God: in this case, the Last Supper discourse of Jesus in John’s gospel. There, the Lord makes the matter rather clear: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide…” [John 15.12-16].

The Church is not ours; the Church is Christ’s. We did not create the Church; Christ did — “You did not choose me, but I chose you…” No earthly power creates the Church and no earthly power owns the Church. The Church was created by the Lord Jesus, and it is his, not ours. So the Church is not ours to “take back,” and it is not ours to “own,” because it never belonged to us. And if we make the Church our own, we defy the Lord whose Church it is.

That’s been hard to grasp for a very long time, as we learn from another New Testament text that repays reading during Lent, St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans. There, Paul unwinds a sixteen-chapter-long argument to drive home one essential point: no merely human institution — no matter how clever, pure, or sensitive to its members’ “needs” — can remit a single, small sin. Only the ministry of the Church can do that. And the ministry of the Church can do it because of the salvific history that is recalled when, in confession, we bow before the words of absolution: “God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins…”

It is Christ’s Church, and the Church celebrates the sacraments through Christ’s power and the grace of the Holy Spirit. During Lent, a season in which the great sacraments of Baptism, the Eucharist, and Penance come into high relief, it is good to think on that, pray over it, give thanks for it — and perhaps resolve, in the future, to avoid imagery and language that suggests that “this is our Church.”

The Good News | 9

Diocese provides new training for youth internet safety

By Sarah DeMott

Creating a secure, safe environment for children now extends to the digital world and a popular workshop is being rolled out in the Diocese to equip parents, educators and all who work with children tools to keep youth safe.

On March 11, Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Chris McKenna, founder of Protect Young Eyes, lead a workshop of the same name hosted by the Diocese of Kalamazoo for parish and school leaders. The one-day training was focused on informing school and parish leadership about what resources and tools are available to safely navigate the internet and technology. Representatives from each Catholic school in the diocese, as well as 23 parishes, were in attendance.

To provide opportunities for parents, concerned adults, and school and parish leaders to learn the tools needed to help create a safe internet environment for youth, McKenna will be hosting training sessions in several deaneries around the diocese. The first will be held in the Northern Deanery on April 25 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Peter Parish Hall in Douglas. At these trainings, questions such as, “What is the right age for a smartphone?”, “How do I control my child’s internet usage?”, “What warning signs should I look out for?” and more will be addressed discussed.

The current statistics on internet usage are sobering. More than 71 percent of teens use more than one social network site. Ninety-two percent go online daily; Fifty-six percent admit to going online several times a day. Nearly 73 percent of teens have smartphones. More than half of teens say they’ve made a new friend over the internet. 68 percent of social-media using teens have experienced drama caused by something posted on social media sites. These are just some of the eye-opening statistics you can find in recent PEW research studies focused on teen internet usage. Today’s youth are facing rapidly growing rates of online pornography use, cyberbullying, sexual predators and more. With the near-constant use and widespread accessibility of the internet and social media by youth it is clear that safety needs to be a constant conversation with parents, teachers and children.

After six years in middle school ministry, Chris McKenna made the leap into internet safety when he accepted the position of Educational Resource Manager for Covenant Eyes, an internet safety and accountability company. In 2015 he founded Protect Young Eyes, an education ministry focused on equipping and encouraging parents and students to use technology responsibly and safely.

“The world of technology is so awesome and affords so many opportunities for education and connection. But, like so many things, something that is as far reaching as the Internet also allows for dangerous and sinful behavior,” said Tim McNamara, Associate Director of Parish Life & Lay Leadership. “This behavior does not discriminate, effecting the innocent and children alike. Protect Young Eyes seeks to empower both youth and adults with the tools to safely navigate the internet and allow this awesome tool to be used for the good that it is.”

“We really want to give as much access as possible to this resource to our families so from the youngest child to the most seasoned adult can feel comfortable and safe when using technology,” said McNamara. For more information, contact Tim McNamara at tmcanmara@diokzoo.org or 269-903-0139.

Full schedule of deanery trainings see pg. 11
El proceso del V Encuentro de Pastoral Hispana comenzará este año del 2017 con los Encuentros Parroquiales de abril a junio y con los Encuentros Diocesanos de septiembre a noviembre. Los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos tienen como una prioridad en su Plan Estratégico del 2017-2020 este proceso del V Encuentro de Pastoral Hispana.

El tema principal del encuentro es “Dis- cípulos Misioneros: Testigos del Amor de Dios.” Este tema enfatiza una espiritualidad de encuentro y acompañamiento ilustrada en el pasaje bíblico del camino a Emmaús (Lucas 24, 13-35). Los cinco temas que se trabajaran durante el proceso son: Llamados a un encuentro de amor con Jesús; Con obras y gestos: ¡Atrevete!: Caminando juntos con Jesús; Dando frutos de vida nueva vida; y Festejando la alegria de ser discípulos misioneros. Los cinco temas son inspirados por el llamado a crear una cultura de Encuentro por Jesucristo.

La Diócesis de Kalamazoo se ha estado preparando para este proceso y el próximo encuentro parroquial será el 1º de abril para todos los equipos que trabajaran en sus parroquias el proceso del V Encuentro. Será de 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. en el Crowley Center de la Catedral de San Agustín.

Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos desean escuchar su voz, participación en el encuentro de Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Tercer Año de Formación. Tema: Presencia de los Hispa- nos/Latinos en la Iglesia Católica de Estados Unidos Por: Timothy Mavrinac, Lugar: Diócesis de Kalamazoo — Árbitro, 906 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 (269) 381-8917.

Por favor no dejen las donaciones afuera en la puerta de la Parroquia de St. Thomas More se cierra a las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesan. Lunes y Viernes Santo, Cerradas las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesan. Lunes y Viernes Santo, Lugar: Diócesis de Kalamazoo — Aleman Center, 215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49001.

La Pascua Significado de Amor De Dios por las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

La Pascua es tiempo de florecer, tiempo de luz, de alegría, de amor entregado, es tiempo de renovación, de volver de la muerte a la vida, de renacer el amor. Jesús quiere que los cristianos católicos de la Pascua estén llenos de la alegría que nuestra fe.

Porque tuviste hambre y me dieron de comer; túve sed y ustede me dieron de beber. Fui forastero y ustede me recibieron en su casa...” — Mateo 25:35

¿Muchas gracias por sus donaciones!

Nota: El Centro Alemán está ubicado en el Parque de la Inmaculada Concepción en Hartford. Lleva este nombre en honor a Diácono Eugenio Alemán de origen mexicano y quien dedicó su vida para que las personas recién llegadas al área se sintieran bienvenidos. El centro es atendido por voluntarios quienes ofrecen su tiempo como un servicio a la comunidad. La Parroquia de St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo, colecta los libros en la parroquia y también tiene voluntarios en el centro durante el verano.

Diócesis de Kalamazoo — Alemán Center: Need of sheets and towels for Migrant Farmworkers

Summer is almost near and the migrant families will soon begin to arrive. Many are able to find a place to live but they may not have a job right away. Many times they are without work during the first weeks. We are asking for donations from the parishes who would like to help alleviate some of the economic difficulties the families have when they arrive to our area.

At this time we are in need of sheets and towels. Donations may be taken to St. Thomas More Parish office at 1333 West Lovell St., Kalamazoo, MI (corner of Monroe and Lovell) between the hours of 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you have questions, please call the parish office at 269-381-8917. Please do not leave any items outside the door of St. Thomas More Parish nor at the Alemán Center. Call ahead if you are planning to drop off any items.

“I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your home.” — Matthew 25:35

Thank you very much for your donations!

Note: The Alemán Center is located by the Immaculate Conception Parish in Hartford. It is named in honor of Deacon Eugenio Alemán, a marvelous Mexican farmworker, who dedicated his life and ministry to help migrants. The Alemán Center administers to the migrant families and gives out clothes and food to those that need this service. The center is staffed by volunteers who offer their time as a service to the community. St. Thomas More Parish, Kalamazoo collects clothes at the Parish and also volunteers at the center during the summer months.
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

Michigan Silver Rose Run 2017

The Knights of Columbus Silver Rose Run began in March with six Silver Roses journeying across North America from Canada through the United States to Mexico. This year, the Silver Rose - One Life, One Rose Program ends on December 12 on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterey, Mexico. This year’s run will be in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and also Our Lady of Fatima during the 100th year anniversary.

A prayer service will be held at each stop; contact the parish for more information. The local stop schedule follows:

- April 4 Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis
- April 5 St. Mary’s Assumption Parish, Bronson
- April 6 San Felipe de Jesus Mission Parish, Pennville
- April 18 Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford
- April 19 St. Margarret Parish, Otsego
- April 23 10 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek
- April 23 5 p.m. Mass, St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek

Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish

The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues with the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish. If you know someone who has suffered any type of trauma (physical, sexual, neglect, etc.), either in the past or present, please refer them to help to Lisette Mira Amaya 269 929 7084 or Fanny Tabares 269 903 0209.

It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lisette.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 877-802-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll free telephone number has been established as a part of the diocese’s effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual conduct 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.

Bishop Bradley’s Calendar

- April 9, 11:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass
- April 11, 6 p.m. Chrism Mass
- April 13, 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper, followed by adoration until midnight
- April 14, Noon 7 Last Words
- April 14, 1 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- April 14, 1:30 p.m. Solemn Liturgy
- April 15, 9 p.m. Easter Vigil
- April 16, 11:30 a.m. Easter Mass
- April 18, 11:30 a.m. Kalamazoo UNITED – St. Catherine of Siena, Portage
- April 21, 7:30 p.m. Gaudium Christi- St. Joseph, Kalamazoo
- April 22, 6:30 p.m. LMC SCENE Auction and dinner – LMC Elementary Gym, St. Joseph
- April 23, 3 p.m. Scout Mass – St. Augustine Cathedral
- May 7, 10 a.m. Mass and Blessing of the Renovated Chapel – St. Joseph, Battle Creek
- May 11, 6 p.m. Seton Banquet – The Beacon Club

Youth Internet Safety — Story continued, page 7

comfort them and to help them know their rights. It is also important to reach out in loving dialogue to those who may disagree with us. The more we can understand each other’s concerns the better we can serve one another. Together, we are one body in Christ.

3. Call, write or visit your elected representative and ask them to support legislation that will be used to fix our broken immigration system in a way that safeguards both our security and our humanity through a generous opportunity for legal immigration.

As Pope Francis said, “To migrate is the expression of that inherent desire for the happiness proper to every human being, a happiness that is to be sought and pursued. For us Christians, all human life is an itinerant journey towards our heavenly homeland.”

Activities around the diocese

- April 23: Bishop’s Scout Mass. St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m.
- April 25: Protect Young Eyes Internet Safety Training. St. Peter Parish Hall, Douglas, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 13: Fatima Anniversary Mass and Prayer Presentation, 8 a.m. Begins with Mass at either St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph or St. Bernard Church, Benton Harbor. A prayerful presentation from both churches will follow after Mass to St. John Church, Benton Harbor (approx. two miles) to assemble for a short prayer service at 10 a.m., opportunity for a plenary indulgence and a May Crowning. Fellowship and refreshments to follow: transportation will be provided back to cars. All are encouraged to wear blue in honor of Our Lady. Contact: Lisa Zienty, lzienty@comcast.net or Ada Green, 269-927-4248. June 24: Ordination to the Priesthood, 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral. Dcn. Jeffrey Hanley and Maximilian Nightingale will be ordained to the priesthood. Contact: Linda Zienty, lzienty@comcast.net or Ada Green, 269-927-4248.
- May 26: Confirmation, St. John Church, Benton Harbor (approx. two miles) to assemble for a short prayer service at 10 a.m., opportunity for a plenary indulgence and a May Crowning. Fellowship and refreshments to follow: transportation will be provided back to cars. All are encouraged to wear blue in honor of Our Lady. Contact: Lisa Zienty, lzienty@comcast.net or Ada Green, 269-927-4248.

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Bishop Bradley’s Confirmation Schedule

- April 20, 6:30 p.m. Confirmation for Marshall and Albion St. Mary, Marshall (dinner before at 5:15pm)
- April 22, 10 a.m. Confirmation St. Philip, Battle Creek
- April 23, 10 a.m. Confirmation St. Mark, Niles
- April 27, 6:30 p.m. Confirmation At St. Margaret, Otsego, with Blessed Sacrament, Allegan
- April 29, 9 a.m. Confirmation St. Monica, Kalamazoo
- April 29, 5 p.m. Confirmation At Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg with St. Ann, Cassopolis
- April 30, 3 p.m. Diocesan Confirmation St. Augustine Cathedral
- May 6: 4 p.m. Confirmation SS John and Bernard, Benton Harbor
- May 7, 2:30 p.m. Confirmation St. John Bosco, Mattawan
- May 12, 5 p.m. Confirmation At St. Anthony, Buchanan, with Decatur, Dowagie, Silver Creek and Berrien Springs
- May 13, 5 p.m. Confirmation St. Basil, South Haven
- May 14, 9 a.m. Confirmation St. Jude, Gobles
- May 14, 3 p.m. Confirmation St. Rose of Lima, Hastings

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Reflection — Story continued, page 7

Youth Internet Safety — Story continued, page 9

Diocesan Noelary: Tuesday, April 25th from 7 pm – 8:30 pm at St. Peter Parish Hall (100 St. Peter Dr., Douglas MI 49046)

Western Deanery: Thursday, April 27th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at St. Bernard Parish (555 E. Delaware Ave., Benton Harbor, MI 49022)

Southern Deanery: Tuesday, May 9th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Immaculate Conception (645 S. Douglas, Three Rivers, MI 49092). Cost to attend is $10

Central Deanery: Saturday, May 20th from TBA at St. Martin of Tours (5855 East W Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097).

Road trip provides stories — Story continued, page 6

road trip from serendipitous moments to the challenges of dealing with a 1993 motor home. The very first blessing was Rev. Al Jorgensen, then pastor of Blessed Sacrament, blessing their motor home before they left town. A daily ritual Barbara did along the way to keep them safe.

Barbara notes she wrote the book to “inspire, educate and entertain.” True to that goal, the 148-page book with more than 300 color photos also includes two puzzles.

“Will you give smiles, and maybe a few tears,” adds Barbara. Books are available online at www.shulerbooks.com/chapbooks. The author may be reached at: barb.thierwechter@gmail.com

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Vatican City - March 22, 2017: A little girl at the general audience greets Pope Francis and tries to take his zucchetto in St. Peter’s Square on March 22, 2017. Credit: © L’Osservatore Romano
Students at Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Three Rivers, decorate bowls they helped make as part of a Lenten fundraiser. The bowls were sold at a soup supper with all proceeds going to Catholic Relief Services.

In celebration of March as Reading Month, State Senator Margaret O’Brien paid two visits to St. Monica Catholic School to encourage students to read every day. Her visits were sponsored by the Michigan Dental Association, which encourages dental education. Each school she visits through the month is entered into a drawing for $500 toward new library books.

Members of Widowed Friends gathered for a Lenten retreat on March 22 at Transformations. Discussions were led by Fr. Don Klingler, Socorro Truchan and Jamin Herold.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Battle Creek celebrated the feast day of St. Joseph and their 75th anniversary with Mass and a parish feast.

This month registered parishioners will receive the annual Bishop’s Annual Appeal materials including a letter from Bishop Bradley, pledge card along with details about how the annual appeal gifts are put to use in the Diocese. Below is a specialized infographic detailing how generous gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal are used. Questions? Contact: Bishop’s Annual Appeal Office, 269-903-0187.

Stay in the know – follow us on social media!

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Sign-up for our weekly E-newsletter that offers a quick read of what’s happening in the Diocese and offers sneak peeks at events and resources.

Like us on Facebook: The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo Follow us on Twitter: @KzooDiocese/@BishopPBradley Watch our videos on our YouTube Channel: DioceseofKalamazoo1

We Are Called

FAITH
Forming the future of our Church
In our parish and schools, we assist in the formation and education of disciples of Christ. Through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, education and formation of our children, adults, educators, catechists, seminarians and priests is possible.

- Average Annual Cost of Seminary: $50,000
- Number of confirmations celebrated by Bishop each year: close to 1,000
- Number of participants at the 2016 New Evangelization Convention: 400
- Current students in lay leadership formation Institute: 180
- Number of priests in June 2017: 9
- God-willing, we will ordain 2 priests in June 2017.

HOPE
Bringing the Church to all
We see a bright future for our Church through the increase in lay leadership. Through our English and Spanish leadership institutes and our workshop offerings, the Bishop’s Annual Appeal helps prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

- In scholarships given to outstanding senior capstone projects from the three Catholic high schools in our diocese: $10,000
- Hours of pro bono legal counsel provided by diocesan Immigration Assistance Program: 50
- Number of local youth and young adults assisted by Catholic Charities: 5,000

CHARITY
Giving to others as a foundation of our faith
Jesus often taught about the gift of time, talent and treasure. Your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal helps to fund local charities to help those in need in our area.

- Support to local Catholic Charities and Catholic Community Center: $261,503