Local men and women embrace religious vocation

One man is readying for his ordination to the diaconate; another women professed first vows this summer and is currently ministering in Silicon Valley; while a new group of seminarians gets ready for the new school year. These are just a few of the hopeful vocation stories happening within the Diocese.

This month Bishop Bradley will ordain 13 men to the Permanent Diaconate. These men have journeyed together in formation for six years and hail from parishes across the Diocese. Permanent Deacons serve the Church in a variety of ways from parish administration to ministering to the sick to assisting the pastor with liturgical celebrations.

In some instances vocations run in the family such as is the case for the Williams family, St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw parishioners. Sr. Veronica Marie Williams professed perpetual vows this past summer for the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist. Meanwhile brother John Paul Williams continues his studies as a diocesan seminarian this fall at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit.

Another local woman continuing her religious vocation journey is Sister Danielle Victoria Lussier. Sr. Danielle Victoria professed first vows for the Daughters of St. Paul and grew up in the Battle Creek area. This past summer she celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at her home parish of St. Joseph in Battle Creek. Currently she is working in ministry in the Silicon Valley not far from the headquarters for Facebook.

Meanwhile as many ready for the Beatification Mass of Capuchin Fr. Solanus Casey, another young man is joining the Capuchin Order. Capuchin Friar Fred Cabras made his solemn perpetual profession of vows as a Capuchin Friar on August 5 at St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel, Detroit.

Br. Fred will continue his studies in Chicago where he attends Catholic Theological Union to earn an M. Div. He also attends Loyola University of Chicago working toward his Masters of Social Work degree. See page 6 for more vocation stories and information.

Dave and Melanie Owens

The focus of this year’s keynote at the annual diocesan New Evangelization Convocation will be rooted in the family as a key component of the New Evangelization through the Theology of the Body, delivered by Damon and Melanie Owens of “Joytob.”

Joytob is a teaching ministry started by Damon Owens focusing on emphasizing the innate beauty in humanity being formed in the image and likeness of God, as male and female. He delivers talks around the country focusing on encouraging and educating on the joy of the family through theology, Scripture, philosophy, biology and psychology.

“Firmly rooted both in the culture and in the Catholic faith, joytob not only bridges the cultural divide, but promotes authentic dialogue grounded by the Gospel values of mercy, compassion, goodness, beauty, and truth. Jesus Christ continues to invite his people to receive the fullness of God’s love and joy, and His Church continually renews her mission to be the place of that encounter today,” states the ministry’s website.

Owens is an international speaker and evangelist with more than 20 years of experience. He served as the first executive director of the Theology of the Body Institute in Philadelphia and Chairman of the 2016 International Theology of the Body Congress. He is a certified speaker for the Theology of the Body Institute, National Trainer for Ascension Press, presented at the 2015 World Meeting of Families and served as a panelist and speaker at the USCCB’s Convocation of Catholic Leaders held in Orlando this July. He and his wife Melanie reside near Philadelphia with their eight children.

The New Evangelization Convocation is open to everyone and will be held October 13-14 at Hackett Catholic Prep beginning with Opening Mass at 8:30 a.m. Friday and ending with Closing Mass at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Both Masses will be celebrated by Bishop Bradley.

For more information, visit: www.diokzoo.org

Catholic schools start new year with enrollment increases and new school models

By Vicki Cesna

It’s back to school time for the close to 3,000 Catholic school students attending schools in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Early indicators show enrollment increases for some schools while others are operating on a new educational model.

Brenda Mescher, principal, St. Charles Borromeo School, Coldwater, says enrollment at the school is at an all-time high with 164 students. Just last month the school celebrated the 20th anniversary of its re-opening with a Mass presided over by Bishop Bradley.

For St. Mary of the Lake in New Buffalo the new school year means operating under a new model. This past summer it was announced that the school would re-open as a preschool only.
Waiting in Joyful Hope

Bishop Bradley released the following statement on August 24, 2017 affirming the recent announcement made by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism.

"Recent acts of violence and hate crimes in many parts of our country are a disturbing sign of the growing social evil and moral sin of racism. I support the USCCB’s formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Racism led by Bishop George Murray, S.J., Diocese of Youngstown. This important step to further motivate our Church to action is important as we all have a role to play in promoting greater sensitivity and respect for all people and opposing all aspects of racism. "I call upon all parish communities to join with me in prayer and in working toward ways we can unify the Body of Christ. In light of these very serious concerns, I am convening a local Ad Hoc Committee of clergy and lay leaders to address this issue as it relates to the Diocese of Kalamazoo and make recommendations on a plan moving forward. I look forward to updating you on this in the coming weeks."

"Let us all pray for God’s graces to strengthen our resolve to live together as His children, made in His image and likeness, with profound respect for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and with a strong commitment to live together in peace.""
The Bishop’s Perspective

“The Joy of the Gospel for all Seasons”

While the “dog days of Summer” turn into the “back-to-school” days of fall, I hope you can look back on these waning summer days as a time filled with rest, reflection and enjoyment. I also hope that this summer afforded you a schedule that was a bit easier and gentler. For me, summertime this year was not exactly restful or gentle, but it was wonderful and enjoyable for several different reasons. The high-point of the summertime took place at the end of June when I had the great privilege of ordaining two new priests for the Diocese, Fr. Maximilian Nightingle and Fr. Jeffrey Hanley. They have both spent their summertime serving in two of our parishes; however, like all students, they will soon be returning to Rome to continue their graduate studies in Canon Law. In addition many of our parishes were busy hosting Vacation Bible Schools, while several of our priests spent these summer days bidding farewell to one parish as they transitioned to new parish assignments. Our Diocesan Pastoral Center offices were very busy planning for a new year of enriching programs, including the upcoming Fall Convocation on the New Evangelization, informational and spiritually helpful programs for married couples, young adults and persons with disabilities, as well as attending to the normal activities of beginning a new school year.

In addition to the Ordination, another high point of this summer for me was the national Convocation for Catholic Leaders held in Orlando over the July 4th holiday. This unique convening of thousands of clergy and lay leaders from more than 150 Dioceses across the country was a powerful and inspiring experience for all who came together with the purpose of energizing the Church at all levels, encouraging us to find innovative and creative ways to spread the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I was very proud that our Diocese was able to take a delegation of nine people including me to represent our local Church. This Convocation focused our attention on the important call every follower of Jesus has because of our Baptism: to be missionary disciples.

In an interview with Pope Francis published his major Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), it became clear that the primary theme of the New Evangelization and bringing to life the joy of the Gospel had to become an overarching goal for the Church in the United States.

I have attended many national meetings, conferences, convocations in the past, but none was as worthwhile, vibrant, enthusiastic, massive, diverse and inclusive as this one proved to be. There were more than 3,000 persons in attendance representing not only the more than 150 Dioceses throughout the United States, but also representatives from a large number of congregations of religious women and men, as well as every national organization, ministry and movement in the U.S. It was encouraging to witness the entire Church in microcosm gathered together for these days of prayerful reflection, renewal and strategic planning.

There were four themes for the Convocation, one for each of the four days: Unity in the joy of the gospel and our need for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit; Responsiveness to the call of the Church in the United States (based on current research and data) in a spirit of “evangelical discernment”; Witness — going to “the peripheries” to accommodate those disengaged from the Church and/or those suffering from poverty (material and spiritual), those with disabilities, those who are hurt or alienated; and Mission — equipping leaders with resources (spiritual, sacramental, catechetical, pastoral) to help them in their ministry and in being formed as true missionary disciples, being mindful that ministerial excellence is only possible by a daily reliance on the Lord.

Major keynote presentations were provided by a wide range of speakers, including Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington D.C., Bishop Robert Barron, known for his “Word on Fire” ministry, Patrick Lancioni, author of “Amazing Parish”, and many others. In addition, there were 66 breakout sessions and workshops on a wide-range of topics in regard to those major themes. I was privileged to be one of the bishops giving opening and closing comments for a breakout session on “Reaching Wounded Families, those struggling with Brokenness.”

While a major part of the Convocation was on presentations, breakout sessions and sharing information, I would say that the primary focus of this Convocation was on prayer and inspiring liturgical celebrations, all with a central focus on Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. Each day, the entire assembly came together for Holy Mass and outside of Mass, there was an Eucharistic Chapel provided for regular private prayer in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. There was never a time that I went into that Chapel that it wasn’t overflowing with people. There were regular opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Penance throughout the four days during the many scheduled times each day. In addition to the daily celebration of the Eucharist, there were other inspiring devotions included such as prayer in honor of Mary, Mother of Evangelization; an evening of adoration and reflection: “Encountering Jesus, Healer of Wounds and Source of Mercy”; an early morning Eucharistic Procession through the Diocese; and a mid-day reflection with the Cardinals of the Councils of Convocation participants processing in quiet praise of Jesus; and on the last day an evening experience of praise: “A Celebration of Faith, Witness and Mission”.

While there could be many ways to summarize the essential characteristics of what it means to embrace the spirit of all the presentations on the
Locals nab advance tickets for first-ever Beatification Mass in Michigan

Close to 400 people from around the Diocese answered the invitation to sign up for advance tickets to secure a seat for the Beatification Mass of Father Solanus Casey. The Mass will be held November 18th at Ford Field in Detroit marking the first-time that a Mass to beatify a saint has been held in Michigan. General seating tickets will be made available to the public sometime in September. Visit the following website to sign-up to be alerted when those tickets become available: https://beatification.visitdetroit.com/.

Ford Field will be opening its gates at 2 p.m. The Mass is anticipated to last more than two hours and will be celebrated by Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, along with concelebrating clergy including Bishop Bradley.

Fr. Solanus received the title of Venerable from Pope John Paul II in 1995. Devotees were then suggested to pray to Fr. Solanus, asking for his intercession to God. The Capuchins have documented hundreds of exceptional favors received which might be acclaimed as miraculous. One such exceptional favor was investigated and accepted by the church as being miraculous, through the intercession of Venerable Solanus. With this declaration, he is acknowledged as one who is in heaven, in union with God, and is given the title of “Blessed.” There will be official Mass prayers and liturgical devotions one who is in heaven, in union with God, and is given the title of “Blessed.” There will be official Mass prayers and liturgical devotions allowing to him — asking for his continued intercession with God.

“The Mass will be held November 18th at Ford Field in Detroit marking the first-time that a Mass to beatify a saint has been held in Michigan. General seating tickets will be made available to the public sometime in September. Visit the following website to sign-up to be alerted when those tickets become available: https://beatification.visitdetroit.com/.

Ford Field will be opening its gates at 2 p.m. The Mass is anticipated to last more than two hours and will be celebrated by Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, along with concelebrating clergy including Bishop Bradley.

Fr. Solanus received the title of Venerable from Pope John Paul II in 1995. Devotees were then suggested to pray to Fr. Solanus, asking for his intercession to God. The Capuchins have documented hundreds of exceptional favors received which might be acclaimed as miraculous. One such exceptional favor was investigated and accepted by the church as being miraculous, through the intercession of Venerable Solanus. With this declaration, he is acknowledged as one who is in heaven, in union with God, and is given the title of “Blessed.” There will be official Mass prayers and liturgical devotions allowing to him — asking for his continued intercession with God.

The Bishop’s Perspective

Continued from page 3

New Evangelization as articulated by our Holy Father Pope Francis calls “a missionary disciple”: 1- courage/boldness, speaking up for our faith; 2- having a sense of urgency to the mission of the Gospel; 3- staying connected to the Church; 4- doing so with compassion; 5- all the while being filled with joy.

I would like to invite each of us to reflect on how we can incorporate these characteristics into our lives in the ways we are living out our faith. Do we have courage to boldly stand up for the teachings of our faith even when they run counter to the cultural norm? Do we fight against complacency and urgently seize the moment to speak the Truth in love? Do we remain connected to the Church despite pressures to do otherwise by practicing our faith and being strengthened and nourished by the Sacraments? Do we have compassion for all our sisters and brothers, especially the poor, marginalized and vulnerable members of our community/society? And do we live our faith joyfully — in a way that is attractive to others, and makes them want what we have? These five characteristics are an important starting point to develop a personal plan for how we can be witnesses to Jesus, our Lord and Savior, as missionary disciples. It must start with a personal conversion of heart drawing us into a deeper love for Jesus, and truly experiencing His saving love for us.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio,for the United States, gave a wonderful talk and called the Convocation a “kairos” moment for the Church in the United States. My dear sisters and brothers, that is my profound hope as well for the Church in the Diocese of Kalamazoo: that we can move toward that “moment” when we can experiences that same kind of “kairos” moment, a time of spiritual renewal, and a time for us all to be set on fire by the Holy Spirit as we desire the love for Jesus and His Church. I look forward to the ways that those who represented our Diocese as delegates to this Convocation will continue working with me, and others, in helping to develop a strategy and a plan to renew our local Church and to find new ways to bring the joy of the gospel to all those in our Diocese, beginning with each of us: lay leaders, religious, deacons, priests and bishop.

As we bid farewell to the slower-paced summer season and move into this beautiful fall season where our “to do” lists become a little more demanding, may these upcoming weeks and months also become a time during which we can all place a higher priority on growing in our relationship with Jesus, as we become more committed to sharing the joy of the gospel with our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and even with those who have not yet heard of, or come to know and love, Jesus Christ.

God bless you, and our Diocese, now and always!

New course “Crossing Borders” explores theology of migration

The popular JustFaith program is offering a new course this fall called, Crossing Borders — Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey. Crossing Borders provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, their values, God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. It is an introductory study that covers the following topics: the contemporary debate and public policy, the history of migration, the Bible and migration, foundations of migration-root causes, migration and Christian social teaching, slavery in America (including human trafficking), the human face of the migrant, and theology of migration. The course begins this month on Monday, September 25th and runs through Monday, November 18th. The class will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. The cost is $20 per participant plus the cost of three books that will be available for participants to purchase. The class will be held at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Contact: Norman Young – ndyoung@charter.net – 269-324-6199, Janine Smith – icrocolyle@yahoo.com – 269-279-2736, Barb Ogrin – bkgrrin100@gmail.com – 269-870-5369.

New course “Crossing Borders” explores theology of migration

The popular JustFaith program is offering a new course this fall called, Crossing Borders — Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey. Crossing Borders provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, their values, God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. It is an introductory study that covers the following topics: the contemporary debate and public policy, the history of migration, the Bible and migration, foundations of migration-root causes, migration and Christian social teaching, slavery in America (including human trafficking), the human face of the migrant, and theology of migration. The course begins this month on Monday, September 25th and runs through Monday, November 18th. The class will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. The cost is $20 per participant plus the cost of three books that will be available for participants to purchase. The class will be held at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Contact: Norman Young – ndyoung@charter.net – 269-324-6199, Janine Smith – icrocolyle@yahoo.com – 269-279-2736, Barb Ogrin – bkgrrin100@gmail.com – 269-870-5369.

New course “Crossing Borders” explores theology of migration

The popular JustFaith program is offering a new course this fall called, Crossing Borders — Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey. Crossing Borders provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, their values, God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. It is an introductory study that covers the following topics: the contemporary debate and public policy, the history of migration, the Bible and migration, foundations of migration-root causes, migration and Christian social teaching, slavery in America (including human trafficking), the human face of the migrant, and theology of migration. The course begins this month on Monday, September 25th and runs through Monday, November 18th. The class will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. The cost is $20 per participant plus the cost of three books that will be available for participants to purchase. The class will be held at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Contact: Norman Young – ndyoung@charter.net – 269-324-6199, Janine Smith – icrocolyle@yahoo.com – 269-279-2736, Barb Ogrin – bkgrrin100@gmail.com – 269-870-5369.

New course “Crossing Borders” explores theology of migration

The popular JustFaith program is offering a new course this fall called, Crossing Borders — Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey. Crossing Borders provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, their values, God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. It is an introductory study that covers the following topics: the contemporary debate and public policy, the history of migration, the Bible and migration, foundations of migration-root causes, migration and Christian social teaching, slavery in America (including human trafficking), the human face of the migrant, and theology of migration. The course begins this month on Monday, September 25th and runs through Monday, November 18th. The class will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. The cost is $20 per participant plus the cost of three books that will be available for participants to purchase. The class will be held at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Contact: Norman Young – ndyoung@charter.net – 269-324-6199, Janine Smith – icrocolyle@yahoo.com – 269-279-2736, Barb Ogrin – bkgrrin100@gmail.com – 269-870-5369.

New course “Crossing Borders” explores theology of migration

The popular JustFaith program is offering a new course this fall called, Crossing Borders — Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey. Crossing Borders provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, their values, God, and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. It is an introductory study that covers the following topics: the contemporary debate and public policy, the history of migration, the Bible and migration, foundations of migration-root causes, migration and Christian social teaching, slavery in America (including human trafficking), the human face of the migrant, and theology of migration. The course begins this month on Monday, September 25th and runs through Monday, November 18th. The class will begin at 6:45 p.m. and end at 9:15 p.m. The cost is $20 per participant plus the cost of three books that will be available for participants to purchase. The class will be held at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Contact: Norman Young – ndyoung@charter.net – 269-324-6199, Janine Smith – icrocolyle@yahoo.com – 269-279-2736, Barb Ogrin – bkgrrin100@gmail.com – 269-870-5369.
Diocesan-wide collection for CCHD will be held September 17

By Lisa Irwin

Did you realize that currently there are more than 46 million people living in poverty in the United States? That is equivalent to the population of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and Nebraska, combined! (To learn more about poverty, those affected by it, and our responsibilities as members of the Church visit http://www.povertyusa.org/). CCHD works to empower those living in poverty to bring the transforming mercy of Jesus into their communities and work together to make decisions that improve their lives and neighborhoods.

Twenty-five percent of funds collected through the second collection [this year on September 16/17] conducted at parishes remain here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo to fund local anti-poverty initiatives. If you would like more information about the collection and those it supports, visit www.usccb.org/chd/collection.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) was founded in 1970 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in response to the realization that charitable services alone were not creating the changes people needed to lift themselves out of poverty. CCHD brings Catholic social teaching to life by funding community and economic development programs across the United States that help poor and marginalized people join together to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. Economic development initiatives help create new businesses and jobs. CCHD also provides educational opportunities for Catholics to learn about poverty, stand in solidarity with those affected by it, and reflect on their own responsibility before the great need of others.

40 Days for Life fall campaign seeks participants

The 40 Days for Life campaign is coming September 27 through November 5, 2017 primarily in the Kalamazoo area. The 40 Days for Life campaign focuses on the power of prayer as a way to work toward the protection of the unborn and the end to abortion. Volunteer participants are invited to sign up for one hour during the campaign to pray on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood at 4201 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Past participants have recounted powerful stories of women who have changed their minds about having an abortion inspired by the witness of people outside of Planned Parenthood, according to Mary Jeske, fall campaign coordinator.

In 2007, the original 40 Days for Life leaders launched the first ever nationally coordinated 40 Days for Life campaign, spanning 89 cities in 33 states. Before long, campaigns were hosted in all 50 states. According to the campaign’s website, since 2007, 40 Days for Life participants report more than 13,000 lives saved from abortion during a campaign.

Local participants are encouraged to register at www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo or call Mary Jeske at 269-459-1234. You can also find more information at: www.facebook.com/40dayskalamazoo

Kalamazoo United invites leaders to pre-event prayer rally on September 24

Earlier this year a group lead by Bishop Bradley and Jeff Wenke, pastor, The Bridge Church, Portage, began planning for a joint gathering called Kalamazoo United to express unity in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The event will be held at Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo on October 29, 2017 at 4 p.m.

This month prior to the event the planning committee is inviting all Catholic and Christian ministry leaders to a pre-event prayer rally on Sunday, September 24th at the Crowley Center located on the grounds of St. Augustine Cathedral. “This is an effort to celebrate all that truly unites Christians in our city,” says Wenke.

For more information visit: www.kalamazoounited.org

The Other Six Days

By Jane and Ellen Knauth

Choices

Ellen: Heather Heyer was my age. A legal assistant who worked primarily on bankruptcy cases, she responded to the show of hatred and anger consuming her hometown by joining others in the streets. She had no power over others’ actions or reactions, but she chose to be brave and join the counter-protestors. She was killed.

Wladislav Budweil, my boyfriend’s grandpa, was 19 years old when the Nazis arrested him. The Nazis’ occupying Poland had decreed that any displays of Polish nationalism were forbidden. Wladislav, the organist for the local Catholic Church, played a Polish hymn in honor of Mary, anyway.

Sent to Auschwitz as a “political dissident,” he was assigned a number, a bunk, and along with others deemed dangerous and different, suffered one of the great atrocities of the 20th Century. He lived.

Jane: I learned about fascism during the year I spent in Madrid as a college student. It was 1978, General Franco had been dead three years, and the Spanish were voting for a new Parliament; the first election since 1939 where more than one party was on the ballot. The only thing my Spanish friends wanted to talk about was voting. They did not understand how someone like me, from a country that had helped defeat fascism in Germany and Italy, could be so mildly interested in its final defeat in Spain. My Spanish history professor urged me to visit the war memorial that Franco had built after the civil war. He had used forced labor from prisoners from the elected republican government that he and his nationalists had overthrown.

So I went to the memorial, The Valley of the Fallen, a huge edifice which includes a Catholic basilica (the Catholic Church backed Franco). Soldiers from both sides are buried there. The inscription I remember most clearly, placed by the victors: “Here lies half of Spain, killed by the other half.”

I learned that war memorials can be ugly things and that the choices we make as a Church can be imbedded in them for future generations to regret.

Ellen: Wadislav met and married another survivor and they moved to Hamtramck, Mich.; welcomed there as war refugees. There, he played the organ at Mary, Queen of Apostles Church until his death in 2014. He and his wife chose to live in a community defined by its immigrant origins; in fact today Hamtramck has the first Muslim majority city council in America. He was a man whose life was defined by his own choices and bravery.

We have choices to make.
Bishop to ordain 13 men to the Permanent Diaconate on September 16th

The Permanent Diaconate class of 2017 hails from all corners of the Diocese: three men are from the same parish, St. Mary Assumption, Bronson. They have journeyed together over the last six years in formation. Some felt called as early as Middle School while others were encouraged by their parents’ witness of faith. Each of them is looking forward to serving the people of the Diocese in a new and exciting way after their ordination. Permanent Deacons are assigned to a parish by the Bishop after ordination and also take on an additional dedicated social ministry.

There were many times that I’ve known God was calling me to the Diaconate to serve God’s Church but more importantly to serve and love the people of God as Jesus does for us. I’m most looking forward to: continually follow what God has planned for me wherever the Church has its need. Where I can continue to be the Christ Servant that God has called me to be by loving and serving the people of God. I like to say the hard work is behind but the real work is beginning as we are being sent out as the apostles sent the first deacons to minister to the widows, orphaned and sick.

JaySON & NICKy AIELLO
St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo
I first felt the call to the diaconate: When I was in middle school, I met a deacon. and I saw him as always filled with joy and as leading a good and virtuous life — something I wished to emulate.

I’m most looking forward to: being able to serve and teach others as a member of the clergy of the true Church.

TIMOTHY & JANICE KISTKA
St. Mary Assumption Parish, Bronson
I first felt the call to the diaconate: It is a road I didn’t plan. It came about through continued trust in God as I walked this journey. Started with discipleship formation and transformed into so much more.

I’m most looking forward to: proclaiming the faith to others.

JAMES & TAMMY BAUER
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan
I first felt the call to the diaconate: In John 15:16 where God says, “it was not you who chose me, but I who chose you”.

I’m most looking forward to: serving my parish and the community.

EDWARD & DONNA LAROCHE
St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, Byron Center
I first felt the call to the diaconate: to serve God and his people in a deeper way and receive the special graces from Him through His Church to do so.

I’m most looking forward to: Serving God’s people in the various liturgies.

Brian & Margaret Kaluzny
St. Catherine of Siena, Portage
I first felt the call to the diaconate: to serve Christ and His Church more deeply in thanks for all the blessings I have received from God during my life.

I’m most looking forward to: applying the graces I receive from the Sacrament of Holy Orders to better serve the Church, my parish and the community.

Dr. Don & Theresa Bouchard
St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, Kalamazoo
I first felt the call to the diaconate at my baptism. After 40+ years of ignoring this call, I chose to listen and obey.

I am most looking forward to: the Graces received an ordination. The enhancement of the mark on my soul by the reception of Holy Orders.

David & Cecilia Krajewski
St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek
I first felt the call to the diaconate: My mother and father were strong in the faith and my mother very much hoped one of her three sons would become a priest. As the youngest, I’m the only one that would become a priest. As the youngest, I’m the only one that would become a priest. As the youngest, I’m the only one that would become a priest.

Vocations

It was a vocations-filled summer as three “homegrown” people celebrated significant milestones for their respective religious vocations. Left: Bishop Bradley blesses Sr. Danielle Victoria Lussier during her Mass of Thanksgiving for professing first vows with the Daughters of St. Paul. Bottom left: Sr. Veronica Williams is shown with clergy from the diocese as well as her brother, seminarian John Paul Williams (to her immediate right) during her final vow profession with the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Bottom right: Paw Paw native, Fred Cabras, made his solemn perpetual vows as a Capuchin Friar and is shown with his parents, Karen & Dr. Vincent Cabras.

Diocesan seminarians spent a few days on retreat before heading to Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit. Shown with Rev. Thomas McNally, Director of Vocations (front left) and Bishop Bradley are from left: David Pinto, Theology I; John Paul Williams, Theology I; Jack Peifer, Pre-Theology I; Paul Biak; College II; Jacob Thomas, College III; Clark Thompson, Theology III; and Michael Klein, Pre-Theology I.
No age limit for faith formation opportunities

By Sarah DeMott

This month hundreds of school-age children head back to religious education classes. Some are looking forward to receiving their Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation and others are delving into the catechism and favorite Bible stories. Whatever the topic, faith formation doesn’t have to stop when your school-days are well within your rear view mirror. Your adult faith can be enriched through participating in adult faith formation opportunities at the parish or diocesan-level.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) details three goals for continuing adult faith formation:

- Invite and enable ongoing conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life – deepening personal prayer and growing one’s relationship with Christ.

- Promote and support active membership in the Christian community – recognize that we are called to be a community of followers of Christ and to share our time, talents and treasure with each other.

- Call and prepare adults to act as disciples in mission to the world – evangelize and share the Gospel with those around us.

Communities for adults can be tailored specific segments and lifestyles: groups specifically for moms or dads, for those who have lost a spouse, who are still trying to discern their vocation, and others create opportunities for adults to help each other grow in their foundation in a community focused on keeping Christ at the center of life at all times, while also building relationships with Christians in similar life situations. Bible studies and group devotions provide a regular time for adults to study and reflect on Scripture while also creating space for building friendships with other Catholics in similar seasons of life. For those who are parents or are in an educational position within their parish (youth leader, catechist, etc.) it is important to continue learning the faith to both be better able to answer questions and explain doctrine, and also to keep the fervor and love for the faith that is so necessary to effectively live out the New Evangelization.

The internet and social media have also opened up boundless opportunities for continuing to delve into the Catholic faith for those whose schedules or proximity make regularly attending in-person groups difficult. Not sure how to get started? Here are some easy places to start:

- Incorporate a daily prayer routine. Perhaps pray a rosary or listen to Holy Family Radio on your commute, read the daily readings with your family over breakfast or spend some time in prayer and reflection while your children nap.

Read or listen to books about the Catholic faith regularly. Ask your parish priest or a friend for suggestions, or visit Newman’s Bookshoppe in Kalamazoo for a recommendation.

Attend your parish’s Bible Study, Women’s or Men’s group, or consider starting one if there isn’t one available.

Attend some of the diocesan adult offerings such as the New Evangelization Convocation (see cover article).

Follow and celebrate the liturgical calendar. This creates a concrete way to reflect on and learn about the Communion of Saints and special feasts and holy days throughout the calendar year.

Diocesan resources:

- For Married Couples: Discovering our Deepest Desire – 12-week program
- For Engaged Couples: Joy-filled Marriage retreat
- For Young Adults (see related article this page)
- For catechists/adult learners: New Evangelization Convocation (see cover article)
- For Persons with Disabilities: Day of Reflection one-day retreat; listening session for caregivers

For details visit the Diocesan website: www.diokzoo.org or call Diocesan Pastoral Center: 269-349-8714
Pope announces new path to sainthood

By Hannah Brockhaus
Vatican City (CNA/EWTN News). —

Pope Francis has declared a new category of Christian life suitable for consideration of beatification called “offering of life” — in which a person has died prematurely through an offering of their life for love of God and neighbor.

Though similar to martyrdom, this definition fits those Servants of God who have in some way given up their life prematurely for charity, though the circumstances may fall outside the strict definition of martyrdom, which requires the presence of a persecutor.

The changes were issued in a Motu proprio July 11, which formally added the particular case to the paths by which a person under investigation for beatification may be discerned to be worthy, in addition to the traditional three paths: martyrdom, a life of heroic virtue and the very rare “exceptional cases.”

The change in norms was made with the support of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which studied the matter during a plenary session Sept. 27, 2016.

In the apostolic letter, Pope Francis wrote that “They are worthy of special consideration and honor, those Christians who, following in the footsteps and teachings of the Lord Jesus, have voluntarily and freely offered their lives for others and have persevered until death in this regard.”

“It is certain that the heroic offering of life, suggested and supported by charity, expresses a true, full and exemplary imitation of Christ, and therefore deserves the admiration that the community of the faithful usually reserves to those who have voluntarily accepted the martyrdom of blood or have exercised in a heroic degree the Christian virtues,” the Pope continued.

The document is titled “maiorem hac dilectionem,” or “greater love than this,” after the verse from the Gospel of John which says: “No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

There are six new articles, including the first making “the offering of life” a new particular case in the beatification and canonization process, as distinguished from the particular cases of martyrdom and heroic virtue.

There are four criteria this case must meet in order to be “valid and efficacious” for the beatification of a Servant of God.

Catholic Committee on Scouting announces award winners, new diocesan liaison and dynamic programs

By Tim McNamara

Following are updates from the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS). Any Catholic Scout in the Diocese is welcome to attend events.

CCOS member Kim Lewis is a 2017 Jerusalem Cross awardee. This award is given to those who offer outstanding support and fulfill the needs of their local parish youth ministry or Diocesan Catholic Scouting community. Lewis is a Girl Scout member since 1996 and Boy Scouts since 2009. She has been the secretary of the Kalamazoo Diocese Committee on Catholic Scouting for close to 15 years.

Kim attended the BSA Philmont Cathedral Medals week camp in July 2014 which started her path towards earning the Jesuleum Cross. Kim has assisted in the execution of the March 5, 2016 Celebration of Faith at Sacred Heart Parish, Silver Creek.

PROGRAMS:
AD ALTARE DEI (AAD) WEEKEND: Beginning with an introductory kickoff to the AAD workbook and required homework on Sunday, November 5th 2017 (from 1-5 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral’s Crowley Center) and continuing/concluding with the workbook weekend itself (Friday, January 12th - Sunday, January 14th 2018), this weekend is for any registered Catholic youth male or female of the Boy Scouts of America (Boy Scouts or Venture) who is registered in a unit for at least six months and has completed the sixth (6th) grade. The AAD religious emphasis focuses on the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Registration is required. Contact Bill Zeman, Co-Chair of the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS), at bzeman2@yahoo.com.

I LIVE MY FAITH WEEKEND: Friday, February 9th – Sunday, February 11th 2018. This offering is for Catholic Girl Scouts in grades 4th – 6th and is intended to help the youth learn more about the faith and provide helps for living the faith out in one’s life. The cost for the weekend is $50 and this includes the workbook, emblem, lodging, and meals. For questions, including how to register, please contact Amy LaRue, Committee Member on the Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCOS), at kevinoramyl@hotmail.com.

CCOS CELEBRATION OF FAITH FALL RETREAT 2018: The Spring Retreat is for all Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Cub and Boy Scouts from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Please join us on Saturday, November 18th from 1 – 5 pm at St. Martin of Tours Parish (5855 East W Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097) as together we will be exploring Fatima, 100 Years.” The cost is $8 per youth and parents/leaders are encouraged to stay. Registration is capped at no more than 40 youth and is due by Monday, November 6th. Registrations will not be accepted after this date.

BISHOP’S SCOUT Mass 2018: On Sunday, April 22nd at 3 pm, Bishop Paul Bradley will be celebrating Mass for all Scouts in the Diocese and recognizing those who have earned a Religious Emblem within the past school year. The Mass will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral (542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007) with a light reception to follow across the parking lot at St. Augustine Cathedral’s Crowley Center. Scouts are requested to bring their troop/pack flags (and a stand) to participate in the procession before Mass. If you have any questions regarding the Scout Mass, or how to submit completed applications for work done on Religious Emblems, please contact George Dragan at gdragan@diokzoo.org.

Know a Catholic Scout? Want to keep informed of Catholic Scouting opportunities? Check out: https://www.facebook.com/KzooCCOS/
Participants learn valuable coping skills in Trauma Recovery Program

By Dr. Phyllis Florian

Using all our senses, paying attention to what is going on around us - this is an important survival skill for all of us. We use our senses to help us feel grounded in the present and be aware of our surroundings. “Staying grounded” is one of the first concepts that is taught through the Trauma Recovery Program, because it helps people feel safer in the here-and-now, and is especially important during the work of trauma recovery that follows in the program.

Recovery is not about forgetting past trauma; rather, it is about coming to a new understanding of how to live in the present, and how to embrace the future. Trauma survivors learn to cope better in the present, so that the past does not negatively impact day-to-day thoughts and communications, in activities and relationships. Learning to get grounded in the present, by tapping into the senses, is an excellent tool for this process.

For example, sometimes our senses get stuck in what we term, “high alert”, because of past trauma. We may startle easily when we hear loud noises, be extra vigilant about our surroundings, be super-sensitive to some smells. Other times, we “numb out” from our senses and thoughts, because it feels safer to get away from them when they “trigger” difficult memories. So, part of learning to “stay grounded” is about re-thinking how we use our senses to help us feel safe each day.

The Trauma Recovery Program teaches participants the necessary grounding skills to maintain emotional and physical safety in the present. By being grounded, participants can face the people, places, events, and situations that have been challenging in the past. Participants learn to manage their feelings better. As a result, they are able to navigate day-to-day situations with increasing ease. Using their senses in this new way, participants can move forward with greater appreciation for all that surrounds them, here and now.

The Trauma Recovery Program is now accepting registration for the Fall 2017 classes. Classes begin in late September, and continue for 10 weeks. The program is offered free of charge.

Pre-registration is necessary, and classes may fill up fast. To register, and for further information, contact Phyllis Florian at 269-903-0134; phyllisflorian@gmail.com. Additional information on page 11.

FOCUS expands to 15 new campuses this year including WMU

Denver (CNA/EWTN News) - The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) has announced that it will expand to 15 new campuses for the 2017-2018 school year. One of those campuses is Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

This brings the total number of campuses with a FOCUS presence up to 137.

In addition to WMU the new campuses for the upcoming academic year are Bowling Green State University (Ohio), Indiana University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Louisiana State University, Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania), University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Rochester (New York), University of Southampton (England), University of Southern Mississippi, University of Toledo (Ohio), Valparaiso University (Indiana), West Chester University (Pennsylvania), and Western Kentucky University.

A campus outreach ministry, FOCUS works to inspire and equip college students to know, love and share their faith through intentional virtue-based friendships.

Missionaries stationed at campuses throughout the country and internationally invite students to grow in their faith through Bible studies, small groups, events, mission trips, and one-on-one discipleships.

FOCUS has more than doubled its campus presence since 2011.

The organization is hoping to again double the number of campuses it serves within the next five years, with a goal of reaching 250 FOCUS campuses by 2022.

For more information including a list of WMU-based FOCUS missionaries visit: https://focusoncampus.org/campus/western-michigan-university.

For more information on the organization visit: www.focus.org
2017 – 2018 Familias Católicas Concurso Estudiantil:
“Vida es un Don”

“La vida es un don precioso, pero nos damos cuenta de esto sólo cuando se la damos a los demás” – Papa Francisco. El Papa Francisco nos llama a “santuarios del respeto por la vida, proclamando sagrada toda vida humana desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.” ¿Cómo se ve esto en su familia? Envíe su trabajo original a: El 4to Concurso Anual Estudiantil de las Familias Católicas de la Diócesis de Kalamaoo, mostrando cómo vives la verdad que “La vida es un don”.

División 1 – Grados 4-8; División 2 – Grados 9-12; 4 Categorías: Arte, Escritura, Música, Video. Todos los estudiantes que actualmente están practicando su fe católica pueden participar. (Asistencia a escuelas católicas no es necesario.)


Los ganadores en cada categoría y división recibirán premios hechos posibles por los Caballeros de Colón. Los ganadores serán anunciados antes de terminar el año escolar.

Patrocinado por: Secretariado para vida Parroquial & Liderazgo Laico, Diócesis Católica de Kalamaoo. Para más información también se puede comunicar con: Socorro Truchan, Director Asociado, Iglesia Doméstica, 269-903-0199 • struchan@diokzoo.org.

Ministerio con los campesinos
Durante este verano como en años anteriores, llegaron a nuestra Diócesis campeños migrantes para trabajar en las cosechas en los 415 campos que cubre la Diócesis en los nueve condados de Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamaoo, St. Joseph y Van Buren. Los Parroquias abrieron sus puertas para acoger a los campeños que llegaron de Texas, Florida, México y otros lugares incluyendo otros países. Hemos tenido un gran número de voluntarios y voluntarias que alegremente colaboran en este ministerio para poder llegar a iglesia y como comunidad de fe a todos los campesinos. El Ministerio Multicultural e Hispano de la Diócesis de Kalamaoo agradece a los misioneros que nos acompañaron este verano para visitar los campos, a los voluntarios de las parroquias que también visitaron campos, a los voluntarios que acompañaron a los misioneros, a los voluntarios que ayudaron en el Centro Alemán, en especial a Maggie Ebrite quien coordina el Centro. También agradecemos a las/los catequistas que ayudaron en la preparación para los sacramentos, como Bautismos, Primera Comuniones y Confirmaciones.

Como parte del compañero del programa pastoral de verano, nuestro Obispo Paul Bradley celebró la Misa en un campo el 20 de julio; confirmó a varios campesinos migrantes en la Catedral de San Agustín el 26 de agosto y Presidió la Misa de la Fiesta Diocesana del 20 de agosto, la Fiesta de las jóvenes. Lugar: Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo.

Calendario/Calendar

V Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Hispana: Discípulos Misioneros Testigos del Amor de Dios (Lucas 24, 13-35)
La Cruz del Encuentro: Como en los Encuentros anteriores, para este Encuentro, tenemos una Cruz Nacional que representa el V Encuentro y ahora también una Cruz Regional para ser utilizada durante los Encuentros Diocesanos y Regionales. La cruz nos recuerda el amor infinito de Jesucristo. Y como dijo el Obispo Jose H. Gomez en el 2015 en Filadelfia cuando el Papa Francisco iba a bendecir la cruz nacional, “La Cruz de los Encuentros es un símbolo de nuestro camino de fe como latinos en Estados Unidos… La Cruz de los Encuentros nos recuerda que la fe católica de los latinos ha formado a la cultura de América desde el principio. Esta cruz que el Papa bendecirá es un signo de dónde proviene América. Y esta cruz es un signo de lo que Estados Unidos está destinado a ser. Esta nación fue fundada para ser una encrucijada de una cruz. Un lugar donde los hombres y las mujeres de todas las culturas y religiones pueden vivir en paz – sirviendo a Dios, a su prójimo y a toda la sociedad…” Esta cruz es un signo de lo que somos – como latinos, como católicos y como esta-dounidenses. Y esta identidad nos da una misión. No importa donde nos comamos. Todos compartimos en la historia y la promesa de América. Y todos compartimos la misión de hacer que Estados Unidos – sea lo que está destinado a ser. Hoy es nuestro tiempo para asumir esta cruz y seguir los pasos de los inmigrantes y los misioneros que nos han precedido… Tenemos que traer una nueva generación hacia el encuentro con Dios! Hacia el encuentro con el amor de nuestro Padre y su misericordia – que nos hace a todos una sola familia de Dios.

La cruz de la Región VI (Michigan y Ohio) fue bendecida por nuestro Obispo Paul Bradley para que este lista al comenzar su jornada en las diferentes diócesis y parroquias de Michigan y Ohio.
BISHOP BRADLEY’S CALENDAR

Sept. 5 – Western Deanery Installation Mass, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, 6 p.m.

Sept. 16 – Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate, St. Augustine Cathedral, 10 a.m.

Sept. 17 – Annual Blue Mass

Sept. 18-21 – Priests Convocation

Sept. 22 – Northern Region Back-to-School Mass, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings, 10 a.m.

Sept. 23 – Institute San Agustin Graduation, 10 a.m.

Oct. 1 – 50th Anniversary Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, 2 p.m.

Oct. 4 – St. Francis Feast Day Mass, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, 6 p.m.

Oct. 6 – 6-8 p.m. Homeschool Mass, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, 9:15 a.m.

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

Oct. 9 – Walk for Education, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Bishop Bradley’s Confirmation Schedule

Sept. 24 – St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Wayland with SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, 11 a.m.

Sept. 30 – Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers, 4 p.m.

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

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

Activities around the diocese

Sept. 9 – Ministry Training Day for Young Adults, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at St. Thomas More Student Parish. Training for anyone interested in bringing a young adult ministry and offering to their parish. Cost: $5, includes lunch. Register to Fr. John McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org.

Sept. 9 – St. Mary Polish Night, Mass at 4:15 p.m., doors to dinner open at 5 p.m., Fr. Bart Hall, St. Mary Catholic Church, Kalamazoo. Night includes Marian Procession, children’s dance group, Polish dinner, live music, dancing and cash bar. Contact: 269-342-0621 or visit: www.stmarypolishnight.com

Sept. 14 – Goo News and Brews, 7-9 p.m. at Arcadia Brewing Company, Kalamazoo. Dynamic speakers, engaging topics, and fellowship for married and single young adults from college through their 30’s.


Sept. 30 – Day of Reflection for adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities. Adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities are invited to participate in a Day of Day of Reflection on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017. The theme will be “Fatima: Mary Calls Us to Prayer.” The gathering will take place at the Pretty Lake Vacation Camp Retreat Center, 9123 Q Ave, Mattawan, Mich. from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Cost is $15 and scholarships are available. For more information and registration forms contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org. Registration deadline is Sept. 20th.

Trama 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 or emotional (etc.) either in the past or present, please refer them for help to Lissette Mir-Amaya 269-929-7084. It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lissette.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct

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 part of the Diocese’s effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This hotline provides suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within dioce- san institutions and ministries only. If you have other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or min- istries, please contact the appropriate diocesan school, parish or office di rectly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective services.

Ministry to Persons with Disabilities plans fall Day of Reflection

Adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities are invited to participate in a Day of Day of Reflection on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017. The theme will be “Fatima: Mary Calls Us to Prayer.” The gathering will take place at the Pretty Lake Vacation Camp Retreat Center, 9123 Q Ave, Mattawan, Mich. from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Cost is $15 and scholarships are available. For more information and registration forms contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org. Registration deadline is Sept. 20th. Spon- sored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo Ministry to Persons with Disabilities. [Shown above with Bishop Bradley are participants in this summer’s Mass and Family Picnic.]

Principal Lori Pearson, St. Rose of Lima Elementary School, Hastings (left) and Principal Becky Reits, St. Monica Elementary School, Kalamazoo, role play during a recent workshop on teacher evaluation hosted by the diocesan Office of Schools.

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

The Good News

The fall session of the Trauma Recovery Program in English is currently accepting registrations. The fall is via weekly classes in this program. Classes include nine Mondays in addition to one Saturday. Participants must choose either morning (9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) or evening (7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) classes when they register. Starts Monday, October 2 and concludes on Monday, November 27. The Saturday session is Saturday, November 18 for both morning and evening groups. Attendance at all sessions is encouraged, to gain the full benefit of the program. Prior to this first class, each participant is required to schedule an assessment interview with one of the group facilitators, and that is coordinated through TRP staff directly. This assessment takes 60-90 minutes, and should be completed one week before classes begin. Contact: Trauma Recovery Voicemail: 269-903-0134
Three couples wed during community wedding in Battle Creek

The recent community wedding for Salvador and Teresa; Teodoro and Sara; and José and Paulina took place on Aug. 12 at St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek. The Mass was presided over by Bishop Bradley and concelebrated by Rev. Christopher Ankley and Rev. Jose Haro.

Community weddings have been celebrated for several years throughout the world, especially in Mexico. Pope Francis presided over community weddings in the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican in 2014. Marriage preparation is done with the couples all together, and the community prepares the ceremony and reception, assisting with the economic burden of a wedding. Many times, couples participating in community weddings are already civilly married and are looking for a way to have their marriage sacramentally blessed and be able to return to full communion with the Church.

Traditional Mexican rites were incorporated into the ceremony including presentation of flowers to Our Lady. In addition one participant received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Hispanic Choir and music ministry of the parish provided the music. A reception was held at the middle school and include a DJ, live band, traditional dancing and featured Mexican cuisine.

Blue Mass for First Responders

Bishop Bradley will celebrate the annual Blue Mass honoring First Responders on Sunday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage. A lunch to honor First Responders will be held immediately after in Marion Hall. All are welcome.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo hosted its second annual “Ark in the Dark Firefly 5k” on Saturday, August 19, 2017. Close to 150 participants enjoyed pre-race activities including face painting as well as post-race refreshments. Before the race Rev. Max Nightingale provided an opening prayer and Fran Denny, former Executive Director, gave a few remarks honoring the late Jill Jilek, a long-time Catholic Charities volunteer for whom the race was dedicated this year. Proceeds from the race benefit Ark Services for Youth, programs offered by Catholic Charities to support teenagers and young adults in crisis. To learn more about Catholic Charities visit: www.ccdok.org.

All Saints Superfest 2017

September 22, 23 & 24

St. Joseph Church Grounds, 61 North 23rd Street, Battle Creek, MI

Skerbeck Brothers Carnival * Silent Auction * Hispanic & Burmese Food Specialties * Kids Games Tent * Booth Tent * CCW Bake Sale

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
OPEN 6 P.M. – MIDNIGHT
St. Lawrence Grill Team – Food Tent: 6-10 p.m.

THE SPAZMATICS
8:30 p.m. – Midnight

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
OPEN NOON – MIDNIGHT
St. Lawrence Grill Team – Food Tent: 1-10 p.m.

DROP 35
8:30 p.m. – Midnight

Sunday, September 24
Open Noon — 4 p.m.
Noon – 2 p.m. – Children’s Talent Show
Noon – 3 p.m. – St. Lawrence Grill Team – Food Tent
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Silent Auction Closing
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. – Live Auction
4 p.m. – Raffle Drawing, Grand Prize $5,000

To reserve tickets for THE SPAZMATICS on Friday night or DROP 35 on Saturday night.
email: info@allsaintssuperfest.org
or visit www.allsaintssuperfest.org for additional information.