World’s Young People Can Participate in Pre-Synodal Meeting in Rome Next Month

Some 300 from 5 Continents Will Attend, But All Can Participate From Home

By Deborah Castellano Lubov/Zenit

A pre-synodal meeting is going to take place in Rome from March 19-24, 2018, in the Vatican ahead of the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October the topic: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, is to provide the opportunity for young people to produce a document, which expresses their view on the state of things, their ideas, their feelings and their recommendations, to be presented to the Synodal Fathers.

Some 300 people, representing young people from the five continents, are expected to participate in this preliminary gathering. Bishops’ conferences, religious congregations, and other Vatican dicasteries were involved in selecting the young people who will participate.

On March 25, on Palm Sunday, the input from this meeting will be delivered to the Pope. It will be among the various items taken into account in the Instrumentum laboris to be used by the Synod fathers.

How Young People Can Be Participate From Around the World

Expressing the Vatican’s desire that young people all over the world can also engage in these discussions, the Italian prelate stressed they are encouraged to do so, by means of social media.

How can young people take part in the meeting? Young Italian Filippo Passantino pointed out the available instruments on the social networks.

Filippo, who is part of a group of young people, invited to the heart of the Synod’s Secretariat, to promote participation on the social networks, hoped that “the Church can speak the language of young people.” So the group created a Facebook page, multilingual Twitter and Instagram accounts with “a young look to speak to other young people.”

He explained that it’s about “transforming the social networks into a forum open to all,” so that numerous young people can take part in the Pre-Synodal meeting, in addition to the 300 young people who will be there. Young people are invited to share their stories, their questions on these social networks. “We have received many messages from the whole world,” said Filippo. The common hashtag on these international networks is: #Synod2018.

For young people, a Facebook page has been created: https://www.facebook.com/groups/pre.synodal/about

The Synod’s official site published, in English, with useful instruments for the Pre-Synodal meeting: http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en/pre-synodal-meeting.html

Bishop welcomes close to 90 for annual Rite of Election

On February 18, families, friends and sponsors of the 89 catechumens and candidates gathered at St. Augustine Cathedral for the annual Rite of Election with Bishop Bradley. This year 35 catechumens (those who will receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil ) and 54 candidates (baptized members who will be confirmed during Easter Vigil) represented 29 parishes from across the Diocese. Members of the elect ranged in age from young children to grandparents and all ages in-between.

Bishop Brad commended the “Class of 2018” for answering their “call to conversion” and during his homily offered the following advice: “As in any friendship, we have to always work at it,” he explained. “We have to make sure that we spend time with our friend, Jesus, through regular prayer; we have to make sure that we remain on good terms with Jesus, and if, and if we do something that betrays our friendship through sins that we commit, we have to make sure that we restore that friendship through the Sacrament of Penance. And we have to make sure that we keep our friendship nourished and vibrant through regularly participating in the Holy Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our faith. That’s when we will rejoice with you 89 Catechumens and Candidates when you are one with us in celebrating the Sacraments, most especially joining us around the Table of the Lord at Mass, sharing in our common identity as Jesus’ friends.”

The Rite of Election includes the enrollment of names of all the Catechumens seeking baptism at the coming Easter Vigil. Typically held on the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens, their sponsors and families gather at the cathedral church. The Catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the diocesan bishop. Their names are recorded in a book and they are called the Elect.

The liturgy is also referred to for the candidates as the “Continuing Call to Conversion.” Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church describes the process for entrance into the Catholic Church for already baptized Christians. In most cases, these individuals make a profession of faith but are not baptized again.

Bishop Bradley begins series of Lenten deanery visits

Two years ago Bishop Bradley announced the creation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: Moving Forward in Hope, which created 26 Parish Collaboratives from the 59 parishes in the Diocese. This month, Bishop Brad will host a discussion entitled “A Spritetime of Faith: Collaborating for a Shared Vision for the Future” in each of the Deaneries.

During his presentation Bishop Bradley will outline the vision for the Diocese, the need for the plan, the current diocesan priorities and invite comments and discussion. Each presentation begins at 6 p.m. and concludes by 7:30 p.m.:

March 5 – Southern Deanery – Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Edwardsburg
March 12 – Central Deanery – St. Thomas More Parish Social Room, Kalamazoo
March 13 – Western Deanery – Rose Center (301 Wayne Street), St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph
March 15 – Eastern Deanery – St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek (Cafeteria)
March 19 – Northern Deanery – Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan

This month Bishop Bradley will visit each Deanery in the Diocese to present his Lenten talk, “A Spritetime of Faith: Collaborating for a Shared Vision for the Future.” Shown above: Bishop Bradley answers questions during the 2016 Diocesan Pastoral Plan presentation at St. Mary’s Parish in Kalamazoo.
Bishop Bradley calls for additional Lenten devotion to the end of violence in wake of Parkland, Florida tragedy

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (February 15, 2018): Bishop Paul J. Bradley is calling for an additional Lenten devotion to root out the evil of violence in the wake of the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, which claimed the lives of 17 innocent people and traumatized an entire community. “I ask all Catholics to make the seven Fridays of Lent days of special prayer, and to offer up our sacrifice of abstinence from meat on those same days, beginning with this Friday, February 16th, for the intention of an end to violence in our own lives and in the lives of all people, with the hope, which is also God’s Hope, that we will live together in peace,” he wrote.

Bishop Bradley’s full statement: “Our hearts are heavy with sadness, even as our minds still cannot comprehend the senselessness of the horrendous act of violence which claimed the lives of 17 innocent people, injured many more and traumatized an entire community at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., which should be a safe haven where young people can grow and learn without fear for their lives. Yesterday, on a day devoted to the love we have for those special people in our lives (Valentine’s Day), and a day calling all people of faith in Jesus as our Lord to a conversion of mind and heart as we begin the penitential season of Lent (Ash Wednesday), we were yet again confronted with the tragiﬁc reality of another senseless act of violence. We pray for those whose lives were ended in this world, and we commend them to our Merciful God to receive them into His Loving Arms. We pray for the families of those who were killed and ask God to cover them with His comfort and consolation. We pray for all those young students, teachers and administrators who were injured, and the entire community and so many in our nation who have been traumatized by this brutal and purposeless act.

“Lent is a time for special prayer, fasting and acts of charity for the purpose of turning us away from sin—that which divides and separates us from God and one another—and so that we can be healed of what divides us, and live in the unity with God and neighbor as we have been designed to do. Yesterday’s violence was horrific and deeply troubling as we realize that it marked the fourth school shooting in the ﬁrst six weeks of 2018. That statistic is beyond distressing and should be a cause for great concern for all. While the endless arguments about gun control and tighter security will continue, as people of faith, we know that the only solution is for people to change their hearts, and to turn away from violence. Let us pray, fast, give alms and do whatever it takes to change hearts, beginning with our own, and to root out violence from our choices when dealing with conﬂict.

“I call on all Catholics, Christians, people of faith, and all people of good will to pray, fast and give alms for the purpose of ending violence. I ask all Catholics to make the seven Fridays of Lent days of special prayer, and to offer up our sacrifice of abstinence from meat on those same days, beginning with this Friday, February 16th, for the intention of an end to violence in our own lives and in the lives of all people, with the hope, which is also God’s Hope, that we will live together in peace.”

Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land set for Good Friday

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

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. Christians living in the Holy Land and living today are descendants of those who ﬁrst believed and lived the Christian faith. The wars, unrest and instability caused by the complex political, religious and military challenges in the Holy Land have been especially hard on the Christian communities.

The funds raised are administered by the Franciscans and support ministries and programs that are signs of hope amidst 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 more than 10,000 students in pre-K through 12th grade, and are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. Other initiatives include four homes for orphans, housing for senior citizens and families, seminarian formation, university scholarships and the maintenance and preservation of forty-ﬁve shrines connected to the life of Jesus and the prophets.

Donations to this appeal of the Holy Father is a direct way to respond to the needs of Holy Land Christians in a gesture of solidarity, compassion and hope. For more information about the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land and the work of the Franciscans, go to http://myfranciscan.org/good-friday/. For information about the administration of this collection in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@diokzoo.org.

Intention from Pope Francis

Please remember the Holy Father Pope Francis' intentions in prayer throughout the month of March:

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.
The Bishop’s Perspective
Accompanying Jesus to Calvary as Jesus accompanies us

As hard as it is to realize that two months of this new year have come and gone, I am glad to know that we are in the month of March---the month I always associate with my most favorite season of all, spring! In just a few weeks, we will observe the Spring Equinox, ending the long months of winter when all of nature was asleep, ready now to begin the next three months of spring, a time when nature returns to “new life” in all its splendor and freshness. Already we are seeing the signs that springtime is near: it gets light earlier in the morning, and stays light longer into the evening, there’s signs of greenery breaking through the hardened frozen ground, the birds are tweeting their springtime songs and baseball spring training camps are alive and well.

Spiritually speaking, we are in the midst of the liturgical season of Lent, a “springtime” of faith, as we are called to turn away from sin and whatever leads us away from God, and to return with hearts renewed to experience once again God’s unconditional love and bountiful mercy. During these Lenten days, we are reminded of the countless scriptural passages in the Old Testament when God goes to great lengths, thru His patriarchs and prophets, to plead to His people to: “return to Me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping and mourning: rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to Me, the Lord”. (Joel 2:13) However, the Gospel passages during these days of Lent are where we see and hear Jesus—the Son of God—the Word made Flesh—the Suffering Servant—the One Who has come to redeem the world—preaching the Good News of God’s love from a very personal and intimate perspective, as One Who knows God, Father, and Who teaches us to know God in that same personal and intimate way.

One of the traditional Lenten devotions that is so worthwhile for all of us is when we gather together to pray the Stations of the Cross. As we reflect on those 14 Stations, we truly accompany Jesus as He carries the Cross that is laden with the sins of humanity, which is why it is so break-breakingly heavy, on His way to Calvary, where He would be crucified and die in preparation for the sins of the world—for your sins and my sins. Following Jesus through the prayerful reflection on the Stations of the Cross reminds us of God’s love for us, that He would allow His Son to endure such ignominy and suffering, because that was the only way to accomplish God’s ultimate plan, which was to restore the relationship between our Father and His wayward sons and daughters of the human race. What Jesus accomplished on Calvary was a once-for-all-Saving Event, which we commemorate each and every time we come together to celebrate the Eucharist. The least that we can do is to accompany Jesus through prayer, fasting and works of charity during these 40 days of Lent, and to prayerfully give thanks to God for His gift of redemption. The Stations of the Cross are the Stations of God’s love for us.

What is truly amazing, however, is not only did Jesus accomplish this Saving Act of Reconciliation once-for-all on Calvary for us, which we sacramentally commemorate during each Holy Mass, but Jesus also accompanies each of us on our way through life. Jesus makes Himself Present to us in our daily sufferings and in our moments of joy; when life is difficult and in times of great success. Jesus accompanies us to strengthen our resolve with His grace, and to help us to accomplish what we cannot do on our own. Jesus is with us in our times of personal prayer, fasting and works of charity, we should be inviting Jesus into our daily actions and seek the ways, through His accompaniment, to make our daily actions moments of grace for others. The practice of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy* are ways for us to fulfill what Jesus told us very clearly in the Gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 25 will be how we will be judged at the end of our lives. We hope that we will be considered “righteous”, so that we will hear the Father say to us: “Come, you who are blessed… and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me. Then the righteous will answer Him and say: ‘When did we see You? … And He will say in reply: ‘Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers/sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”

Being mindful of other circumstances with the Heart of Jesus and being compassionate toward their needs is a requirement for those of us who are trying to be faithful followers of Jesus, and who hope to be considered among the “righteous” who find our way to the Resurrection Joy of Heaven once our earthly “way of the Cross” is completed.

As we look around our world and consider the political issues of the day, we, as followers of Jesus, need to look beyond political positions and see where the Heart of Jesus is calling us to go. Whether we are considering issues such as immigration reform, gun control, racism, or the ecological care of our environment, we need to ask Jesus who is accompanying us, how He wants us to welcome the stranger, how we are to repair by the works of mercy, how we are to embrace the least of these as if we were embracing Jesus, how we are to be merciful to those who ask us for help and do not want what we are offering, how we are to respect the diversity of others, how we are to intercede for justice, how we are to remember the poor and work for justice, and how we are to safeguard the beauty of God’s creations.

*see pg. 4 for a listing of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

La Perspectiva del Obispo
Acompañando a Jesús al Calvario como Jesús nos acompaña a nosotros

Así como es difícil darse cuenta de que dos meses de este nuevo año han llegado y se han ido, me alegra saber que estamos en el mes de marzo --- el mes que siempre asocie con mi temporada favorita, ¡la primavera! En solo unas semanas, observaremos el Equinoccio de primavera, que marca el cambio de estaciones más frío de invierno a la “primavera” más caluroso. En la mañana y la luz permanece más tiempo por la noche, hay signos de vegetación que atraviesa el suelo congelado endurecido, los pájaros están titubeando sus canciones de primavera y los campos de Beisbol de entrenamiento de primavera están vivos y bien.

Espiritualmente hablando, estamos en medio del tiempo litúrgico de la Cuaresma, una “primavera” de fe, ya que estamos llamados a alejarnos del pecado y todo lo que nos aleja de Dios, y regresar con corazones renovados para experimentar una vez más el amor incondicional de Dios y abundante misericordia. Durante estos días de Cuaresma, recordamos los innumerables pasajes de las Escrituras en el Antiguo Testamento cuando Dios hace grandes esfuerzos, a través de sus patriarcas y profetías, para suplicarle a su pueblo que “regrese a Mí con todo su corazón, ayunando, llorando”; rasguen sus corazones, no sus vestiduras, y regresen a Mí, el Señor”. (Joel 2:13) Sin embargo, los pasajes del Evangelio -durante estos días de Cuaresma son donde vemos y escuchamos a Jesús — el Hijo de Dios — el Siervo Sufriente — el que ha venido a redimir al mundo — predicando las Buenas Nuevas del amor de Dios desde una perspectiva muy personal e íntima, como Aquel que conoce a Dios como Padre, y que nos enseña a conocer a Dios de la misma manera personal e íntima.

Una de las devociones cuaremasales tradicionales que tanto valen para todos nosotros es cuando nos reunimos para rezar el Via Crucis. Al reflexionar sobre esas 14 Estaciones, realmente acompañamos a Jesús mientras Él carga la Cruz cargada con los pecados de la humanidad, que es por lo que es tan abrumadoramente maravilloso el viaje al Calvario que Jesús hace en el Evangelio de Lucas. La práctica de las Obras Corporales y Espirituales de Misericordia son formas para que podamos cumplir lo que Jesús nos dijo muy claramente en el Capítulo 25 del Evangelio de San Mateo: será cómo seremos juzgados al final de nuestras vidas. Esperamos que seremos considerados “justos”, para que oigamos que el Padre nos diga: “Vengan ustedes que son bendecidos … y heredan el reino preparado para ustedes desde el comienzo del mundo”. Porque tuve hambre, y me diste de comer, tuve sed y me diste de beber, un forastero, y me recibiste, desnudo y me cubriste; enfermo, y me cuidaste en la cárcel, y me visitaste. Entonces los justos le responderán y dirán: “Cuándo te vimos? … Y él responderá:” En verdad te digo, hagas lo que hagas por uno de estos hermanos / as míos menos, lo hiciste por Mí.”

Ser consciente de las circunstancias de los demás con el Corazón de Jesús y ser compasivo con sus necesidades es un requisito para aquellos de nosotros que estamos tratando de ser fieles seguidores de Jesús, y que esperamos ser considerados entre los “justos” que encuentran nuestro camino hacia la Resurrección Alegría del Cielo una vez que nuestro “camino de la Cruz” terrenal se complete.
The Bishop's Perspective
Continued from page 3

creation all around us. These are not choices that advance a political agenda; these are concerns that help us to build the Kingdom of God among us.

As Pope Francis wrote in his Lenten Message for 2018, the increase of what he called “iniquity” in the world is a sign of a growing “coldness of heart”. As he writes: “Perhaps you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, and the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the human family...If at times the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the Heart of God. He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.”

My dear Family of Faith, this Lent is truly a “springtime”, a season to turn from sin and grow in God’s Love for us, and for all people. As we spend time accompanying Jesus on His Way to Calvary and being inspired by His love for us and all the world, may we allow all our Lenten practices, devotions, and activities to be for the purpose of rekindling the love of Jesus in our hearts. May Jesus, who accompanies us on our “way” through life, help us to share His love to all those we encounter along the way, not just until Easter, but throughout the remainder of our lives.

When we look around our world, may we allow all our Lenten devotions and activities to be for the purpose of rekindling the love of Jesus in our hearts. May Jesus, who accompanies us on our “way” through life, help us to share His love to all those we encounter along the way, not just until Easter, but throughout the remainder of our lives.

Joining with Diocese around the world, and accepting the Holy Father’s request, the Diocese will offer the following locations and times:

Central Deeney- St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo- March 9th, 6 a.m.-Midnight; March 10th, 6 a.m.-Noon

Northern Deeney- St. Peter, Douglas- March 8th, 8:30 a.m.- March 9th, 8:30 a.m.; ends with Mass at St. Peter March 9th at 8:30 a.m.

Southern Deeney- Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers- March 9th, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; March 10th, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Eastern Deeney- St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater- March 9th, Noon-10 p.m.; March 10th, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Western Deeney- St. Joseph, St. Joseph (Downtown)- March 9th, check parish for times.

The Corporal Works of Mercy
Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy
Admonish the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

Diocese offers “24 Hours for the Lord”

The Holy Father has invited dioceses, parishes and communities to join with him in participating in the initiative entitled “24 Hours for the Lord.” This program, which was originally organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, is aimed at placing the Sacrament of Reconciliation once again at the center of the pastoral activity of the Church. In his Lenten Message for this year, Pope Francis once again called for this dedicated time and this year chose the theme “With you is Forgiveness” based on Psalm 130:4. He asked that at least one church in each Diocese remain open for 24 hours for the opportunity for both Eucharistic Adoration and Sacramental Confession. Penitential Celebration over Pope Francis will preside over the opening Penitential Celebration on Friday, March 9, in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Over the past few years, Pope Francis has designated a beautiful ‘moment’ for the Lenten Season, in which particular attention is given to creating a special opportunity for penitence, prayer, and worship of our Lord in the Eucharist,” said Msgr. Michael Osborn, Vicar General for the Diocese.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number

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

The Good News
Continued from page 3

The Bishop expresses gratitude for
grams which benefit the en-
that are now able to slightly in-
vided Pension Plan, we
stered so selflessly to the
In his letter, Bishop wrote: “Certainly 2017 was a year of great

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additional liturgies and times: www.stakalamazoo.org
Friday, March 30- Noon- “Seven Last Words” Liturgy
Sunday, March 25-Sunday, April 1, 2018
**Please check St. Augustine Cathedral website for
$46,260 for the Rice Bowl Collection;
$30,000 from the Catholic Campaign
$68,195 combined total for the
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“This incredible financial response has now made our Dioce-

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Instituto San Agustin develops Spanish-speaking lay leaders

By Nicole L.V. Mullis

Although the Catholic faith is universal, faith formation works best in one’s native language.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo’s large population of Hispanic and Latino Catholics account for 47 percent of the diocesan church. These Catholics asked for formal faith formation in their maternal language so they could better serve their parishes.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo Office of Multicultural and Hispanic Ministry, under the leadership of Dr. Fanny Tabares, created the Instituto San Agustin (ISAK), an intensive, three-year, Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program.

“It came from the people asking the bishop and the bishop supporting it,” Veronica Rodriguez, Associate Director of Parish Life and Lay Leadership, said. “No other programs have had this response.”

The ISAK enrolled their first class in Fall of 2011 with a grant from the Catholic Extension. Upon graduation, 80 Hispanic and Latino laity returned as decision-makers and Christ-bearers to their home parishes.

Cecilia Krajewski of St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, was one of the first ISAK graduates.

“The Spanish-speaking priests who came [to our parish] only stayed two years, which didn’t give much time to establish or follow up with programs,” Krajewski said. “Having [lay] leaders would make sure working programs would remain from priest to priest.”

Although Krajewski entered to help her fellow parishioners, the rigorous training helped her personal faith life.

“It deepened my prayer life, my understanding of our beautiful Catholic faith, and the beauty of why we believe and do what we believe and do,” Krajewski said.

In 2014, an anonymous donor funded a second ISAK class, which resulted in another 92 lay leaders. That same donor has funded a third ISAK class, which began last fall and already has 140 students.

“I have already been helping out in my parish, but I recognized I needed more knowledge about my Catholic Church to better help my community in God,” current ISAK student Xochitl Flores of San Felipe De Jesus Parish, Fennville, said.

Students meet monthly from September through May and attend a two-day summer retreat. Childcare is available. Parish mentors, often ISAK graduates themselves, help students between classes.

“Their commitment to the group they are mentoring and their support of the program is immeasurable,” Rodriguez said.

Each student creates a plan of action, detailing how they will use their education in their parish. The plan is presented to and approved by their pastor and ISAK leadership.

“The main objective of ISAK is to form lay leaders who can better serve their parish communities,” ISAK coordinator Dr. Angelica Valdes said. “It is the role of the parish to utilize their formation.”

Creating a plan of action was empowering for Krajewski.

“The purpose was to encourage us and get us accustomed to stand up and volunteer in our parish,” Krajewski said. “Once we did, it would be easier to take the next step – to take charge or be put in charge.”

ISAK graduates have become catechists, lectors and lay ministers. They have helped develop Spanish-speaking preparation classes for marriage and baptism, as well as outreach programs for the homebound and migrants.

Although intended for the ten parishes with large Hispanic/Latino populations in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the Institute has accepted students from the Diocese of Lansing and the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

“Our donors asked us to open [the ISAK] to other dioceses that want formation but have nothing similar for Spanish-speaking people,” Rodriguez said.

“This program will open doors for many people who want to help in our churches but don’t have the skills or education to do it,” Flores said.
Encuentro Diocesano Pre-Matrimonial: Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría

Por Veronica Rodriguez

Comenzando en el 2018 la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano estará colaborando con la Oficina de la Iglesia Doméstica para proporcionar la formación de parejas basándose en el Programa de Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría. Este es un fin de semana de preparación matrimonial para parejas comprometidas y está enraizado en las virtudes y en la Teología del Cuerpo. El programa incorpora una rica teología católica con una sólida psicología.

Para las parejas que van a casar o para las parejas de matrimonio que quieren un fin de semana de reflexión, el Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría en el 2018 es de 8:30a.m. – 5:00p.m. en las siguientes fechas:
Sábado 17 y Domingo 18 de Marzo en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo
Sábado 9 y Domingo 10 de Junio en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo
Sábado 4 y Domingo 5 de Agosto en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo

Las parejas que desean casarse, recuerden que primero deben hablar con su párróco (por lo menos 6 a 9 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la boda). También recuerden que deben participar en la formación que proporcione la parroquia.

La formación Diocesana, Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría, es un complemento a esa preparación que ofrece la parroquia.

Para más información, pregunte en su parroquia o puede llamar a la oficina Diocesana al 269-903-0197.

Matrimonio y Vocaciones

por Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

Comenzamos por discernir qué es vocación:

Esta palabra significa llamados por la boca de Dios. Todos absolutamente todos hemos sido llamados a vivir la vocación del amor y a la santidad, ni uno solo se escape o puede decir yo no he sido llamado.

Pero este llamado se especifica en un estado de vida, es allí donde se puede vivir mejor este llamado de Dios.

Los estados de vida son: el celibato o la vida laical, la vida religiosa, la vida sacerdotal, y el matrimonio.

Celibato o la Vida laical: es la opción de no tomar votos religiosos o consagración sacerdotal, ni tampoco contraer matrimonio prefiriendo servir a Dios desde este estado de vida. Esforzándose por vivir la castidad y la entrega generosa por el reino de los cielos, desde su lugar o ambiente.

Vida religiosa: consiste en hacer voto público de pobreza, castidad y obediencia en una orden religiosa sea masculina o femenina para tratar de santificarse en el esfuerzo diario. Y a través de la vivencia de la pobreza evangélica, la castidad ofrecida con un tesorero y la obediencia a sus superiores como quien trabaja en la gran empresa de Dios. Consagrando todo su tiempo su posibilidad de una familia, su patria y su familia sanguínea para adquirir una familia religiosa con un mismo ideal.

Vida sacerdotal: consagrados, separados para Dios, es una porción de Dios. Dios elige a hombres para hacerlos sus mensajeros y adhírense a la presencia de Jesús al mundo en la eucaristía, representan a la persona de Cristo sumo y eterno sacerdote.

El matrimonio: es la consagración de dos personas que prometen amarse y buscar la santidad y el amor en esta unión que por ese vínculo se convierte en Sacramento, o sea sagrado convirtiéndose en sagrado todo lo que proviene de esta unión amorosa entre dos personas que juntos quieren alcanzar la Perfección.

Así todos escuchando la voz de Dios un día decidimos elegir la forma de responderle generosamente a Nuestro Señor desde la vida laical o célibe, la vida sacerdotal o religiosa, o desde el matrimonio, pero todos respondiendo al llamado de Dios a la santidad.

Todos tenemos vocación.

Semana Santa (Marzo 25 – Abril 1, 2018)

Esta semana debe ser realmente Santa para todos los católicos. Es la semana cuando la Iglesia se dedica más profundamente a reflexionar sobre la vida, muerte y Resurrección de Jesús.

La Iglesia en esta semana nos ofrece una gran cantidad de símbolos maravillosos para ayudarnos en esta jornada espiritual de encuentro con el Señor. Encuentro con este Dios maravilloso que se encarnó en la humanidad para dignificarnos para ‘endiosarnos,’ es decir para elevarnos y mostrarnos con su vida, con su entrega, su infinito amor.

Esté atento para recoger el boletín de su parroquia y ver el horario de la Semana Santa y participar en ella.

También, esté atento a las lecturas de cada día para que en familia podamos acompañar a la Iglesia Católica Universal en esta jornada espiritual.

Vayamos por día de esta semana:

Domingo de Ramos: “Entrada Triunfal del Señor a Jerusalén.” La gente esperaba un Mesías rey, esperaban a un rey como los que estaban acostumbrados a ver. Pero todo lo contrario, Jesús aparece humildemente y en su vida, había dicho sobre Zacarías 9,9 Jesús es aclamado como rey por la muchedumbre. Jesús es el Rey que trae la paz, que trae la justicia, que trae el amor y el perdón. “Decían: ¡Bendito el que viene como rey en nombre del Señor! ¡Paz en el cielo y gloria en las alturas! (Lucas 19,38). Haciendo alusión a esa entrada triunfal de Jesús a Jerusalén tendremos la procesión con Ramos que serán bendecidos y nos acompañarán en esta jornada de fé. Este Domingo de Ramos será uno de los días en donde tendremos una lectura larga y muy rica en contenido. La lectura de la pasión de Jesús, Lucas capítulos 22 y 23.

Lunes, martes y miércoles Santo

Continuamos en la misma reflexión sobre la vida y pasión de Jesús. A continuación leeremos las lecturas de esos días para reflexionar en familia:

Lunes Santo: Isaías 42, 1-7; Salmo 26; Juan 12,1-11
Martes Santo: Isaías 49, 1-6; Salmo 70; Juan 13,21-33, 36-38. Este día, Marzo 27 a las 6:30p.m. tendremos en la catedral la bendición de los óleos, para los sacramentos de bautismo, confirmación, unión de los enfermos y sacramento del orden. Concelebrará el Obispo con todos los sacerdotes de la Diócesis. Usted es bienvenido(a).

Miércoles Santo: Isaías 50, 4-9a; Salmo 68; Mateo 26, 14-25.

Jueves Santo: Este día comienzan el Triduo Pascual (Jueves, Viernes y Sábado-Domingo). Este día celebramos la institución de la Eucaristía con la Última Cena; el pan y el vino convertidos en cuerpo y sangre de Cristo. También este día está dedicado a los sacerdotes. El jueves Santo es un día lleno de símbolos maravillosos. Lecturas para la misa de este día, Exodo 12, 1-8, 11-14; Salmo 115; 1er Corintios 11, 23-26; Juan 13, 1-15. Después de la Homilía se hace el lavatorio de los pies. El sacerdote se acerca a cada una de las personas escogidas antes y les lava los pies para recordar lo que hizo Jesús con sus discípulos, como símbolo de servicio y entrega. “Os doy un mandamiento nuevo: que os améis unos a otros como yo os he amado.” Juan 3,34. Se continúa la Misa con la plegaria Eucarística y la consagración. Después que los fieles reciban la comunión, se lleva el Santísimo en procesión hasta un lugar preparado especialmente para la oración en donde la gente vendrá a visitar al Santísimo hasta media noche. Este día recordamos cuando a Jesús lo tomaron preso.

Viernes Santo: En este día no hay misa. La celebración consta de 3 partes: Liturgia de la Palabra, Adoración de la Cruz, y la Sagrada Comunión. Lecturas para este día: Isaías 52, 13-53; 12; Salmo 30; Hebreos 4, 14-16, 5, 7-9; Juan 18, 1-19, 42. Pasion de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. En este día también se hace el Viacrucis y en algunos lugares se acostumbra representar las Estaciones del Viacrucis dramatizado en vivo.

Sábado Santo en la noche: La Viglia Pasqual: Esta es la ceremonia más linda de la Semana Santa porque nos habla del Triunfo del Señor sobre la muerte. Si Dios venció a la muerte nada podemos temer. Nuestro Dios es el Dios de la vida. Esta celebración se hace cuando cae la tarde para comenzar a oscuras la ceremonia. La noche nos ofrece recogimiento, silencio y es muy simbólica. Se comienza con una fogata en la puerta de la Iglesia. Símbolo de fuego nuevo, allí se enciende el Ciro Pascual símbolo de la luz de Cristo y de Cristo Resucitado. Ciro que se utilizará...
Here & There

**BISHOP BRADLEY’S CALENDAR**

- **March 4** – Closing Mass for Diocesan Youth Confirmation Retreat, Gulf Lake Ministries, 10 a.m.
- **March 5** – Reading Month activities, Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Three Rivers 9 a.m.
- **March 5** – Lenten Lecture Series, Southern Deanery, Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg, 6 p.m.
- **March 13** – 11 a.m. Confessions and 12:10 p.m. Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral
- **March 13** – Lenten Lecture Series, Western Deanery, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, 6 p.m.
- **March 14** – Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, Borgess, Lawrence Center
- **March 15** – Lenten Lecture Series, Eastern Deanery, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, 6 p.m.
- **March 16** – Stations of the Cross, St. Stanislaus, Dorr, 9:30 a.m.
- **March 18** – St. Mark Parish, Mass and Anointing, Niles, 10 a.m.
- **March 19** – Lenten Lecture Series, Northern Deanery, St. Margaret Parish, Oscego, 6 p.m.
- **March 22** – 11 a.m. Confessions and 12:10 p.m. Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral
  *See page 4 for Holy Week schedule

For more Lenten Events, including Penance Services at more than 30 parishes around the diocese, visit www.diokzoo.org/lenten-events

### Activities around the Diocese

- **March 8** – Good 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 30s.
- **March 9-10** – “Discipleship: A Call to Commitment” at St. Jerome Retreat Center, Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers: March 9 - 10: Mass 8 - 9:30 a.m.; March 9 - 9 a.m. potluck at 5:30, retreat 6:30-8:30 p.m.; March 10 - immediately following 4 p.m. Mass - 7:15 p.m.
- **March 9** – St. Tom’s Young Adult Simple Supper and Scripture, 7 p.m. in the Bronx Room; supper, prayer and Lectio Divina of Sunday’s readings.

### Lenten Lecture Series

**St. Jerome, Battle Creek**

- The annual St. Jerome’s Lenten Luncheon Series will be held at St. Jerome Parish Hall in Battle Creek every Wednesday through March 21st beginning at 10:45 a.m. The speaker of the day will begin his address following the celebration of the Mass with a light lunch follow: March 7 – Fr. Thomas McNulty
- March 14 – Fr. Bill Jacobs
- March 21 – Fr. John Fleckenstein

**St. Philip, Battle Creek**

- Fr. John Fleckenstein, “John the Baptist’s Role in Salvation History and the Quest for a slopes of carpentry.”
- “Pathway from Prayer, Fast, Give,” at St. Martin Parish, Sparks, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish, Sparks. Topics will include March 7 – Prayer
- March 14 – Redemptive Suffering March 21 – The Eucharist

**St. Monica, Kalamazoo**

- St. Monica’s Tuesday Evening Lectures on Wednesday’s 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at St. Monica of Tours Parish, Kalamazoo. Topics will include March 7 – Prayer
- March 14 – Redemptive Suffering March 21 – The Eucharist

### “Waiting in Joyful Hope”

By Lisa Irwin

Lent is a time of encounter. We are invited to become companions on the journey, accompanying our brothers and sisters most in need, especially the migrant and refugee. How can your prayers, fasting and almsgiving inspire renewed love of neighbor this Lent? Take time to reflect on this question throughout Lent, and on the story that inspired it, the parable of the Good Samaritan. CRS has developed a series of short videos to enhance our reflection. The Good Samaritan reflection series featuring well-known Catholic leaders such as Bishop Edward Burns and Lisa Hendey, founder of Catholic Mom, is available on YouTube, and on the CRS Rice Bowl website, https://www.crusricebowl.org/share-the-journey. Through CRS Rice Bowl, our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving become a lens for love truly making a difference in the lives of people around the world

### Young Adult Retreat heads to Pretty Lake March 16-18

All young adults are invited to spend a weekend in prayer, reflection and fellowship during the 2018 Young Adult Retreat. This year’s theme is “Becoming a Great Saint in Everyday Life” and the retreat will be held at Pretty Lake Camp in Mattawan. The retreat begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 16 and concludes at Noon on Sunday, March 18. Cost is $50 and includes all meals and snacks. In addition to time for reflection and fellowship, there will be the Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Adoration, guest speakers and presentations. For more information or to register, contact Tim McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org, 269.903.0139.

### 40 Days for Life continues through March 25

The 40 Days for Life prayer campaign. Featuring 40 days of prayer, fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil, 40 Days is an effort to focus on prayer at abortion facilities and grassroots educational outreach. The campaign will run through March 25. Volunteers are asked to sign up for blocks of time to stand outside abortion facilities to pray peacefully. For more information, visit www.40daysforlife.com/Kalamazoo.

### Hope for Marriages in Crisis: Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Does talking only make it worse? Rediscover healing and love and find hope by attending Retrouvaille (pronounced re-tro-vee with a long i). The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. The next Retrouvaille weekend begins March 23, 2018. Please don’t wait. The next weekend is not scheduled until September 28, 2018. For more information, to register or to sponsor a couple, Phone: 616.752.7004 [retrorapids@gmail.com | retrouvaille.org].

### CRS OFFERS LENTEN RESOURCES

The annual Spring overnight retreat for adults with Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities, April 28-29, 2018

The annual Spring retreat for Persons with Disabilities will be held Saturday, April 28 beginning at 9:30 a.m. to Sunday, April 29 concluding at 1 p.m. The retreat is held in the scenic Lakeview Lodge at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis on Saturday, April 28 through Sunday, April 29th. Shown above is a group enjoying last year’s experience. The annual Spring retreat for adults with cognitive disabilities will be held at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis on Saturday, April 28 through Sunday, April 29th. Shown above is a group enjoying last year’s experience.

### Annual Spring Overnight Retreat for Adults with Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities, April 28-29, 2018

The annual Spring overnight retreat for adults with cognitive disabilities will be held at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis on Saturday, April 28 through Sunday, April 29th. Shown above is a group enjoying last year’s experience. The annual Spring retreat for Persons with Disabilities will be held Saturday, April 28 beginning at 9:30 a.m. to Sunday, April 29 concluding at 1 p.m. The retreat is held in the scenic Lakeview Lodge at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis. This year’s retreat will explore the life of St. Philip Neri with a special focus on his example of following Christ with joy. Participants will enjoy fellowship, prayer, activities, crafts, food and more. **Registration deadline is April 16** and the retreat is limited to 20 participants. Registration packets will be available soon. Cost is $35. Scholarships are available. For more information to register or volunteer, contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177; lirwin@diokzoo.org.

### Semana Santa (Marzo 25 – Abril 1, 2018)

Continued from page 6

más adelante para el bautismo. Todos entran en procesión con velas a la Iglesia que tiene las luces apa granditas simbolos de la Tumba de Cristo y se va iluminando con el Cirio Pascual y las velas que traen todos. Cristo entra en el mundo y en la oscuridad para transformarlos. También entran en Procesión los Catecúmenos y Candidatos: adultos que se estuvieron preparando durante el año para recibir el bautismo y la Confirmación en esta ceremonia tan especial. En algunas parroquias que tienen una pila bautismal se hace bautismo de inmersión es decir para bautizarlos se les echa agua en la cabeza que moja todo el cuerpo. La Vigilia Pascual es una ceremonia litúrgica plena en contenido y con muchas lecturas. Las lecturas de esta noche son las 7 Lecturas del Antiguo Testamento y dos del Nuevo Testamento más los salmos después de cada lectura del Antiguo Testamento. Génesis 1, 1-2, 2; Salmo 103; Génesis 22,1,13-15; Salmo 15; Exodo 14, 15-15,1; Isaías 54, 5-14; Salmo 29; Isaías 55, 1-11; Cantico Isaías 12; Baruc 3, 9-15.32-4, Salmo 18; Ezequiel 36, 16-17. 18-28; Salmo 50; Romanos 6,3-11; Salmo 117, Lucas 24, 1-12.


Qué tengan una ferverosa y Feliz Semana Santa.
Catholic Schools Week
Bishop Bradley celebrated two school Masses in celebration of Catholic Schools Week – January 31 for the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools at St. Philip Catholic Church, Battle Creek (pictured below) and February 1 at Hackett Catholic Prep, where several schools attended, totaling more than 1,100 students (pictured above).

First Annual Day of Giving
During Catholic Schools Week 2018, several schools throughout the Diocese participated in a Day of Giving, a special 24-hour donation drive, from 9 a.m. on January 30 to 9 a.m. January 31. Donations at presstime totaled more than $28,000 (with some outstanding gifts still being tallied). More information, including an exact total raised, will be reported in a future edition of The Good News and the Office of Schools annual report. St. Basil Elementary School students (pictured above) posted a special thank you photo on their Facebook page during Catholic Schools Week.

Hackett alumnus earns national athletic honors
Hope Baldwin, the 2017 Valedictorian of Hackett Catholic Prep, received the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award and won the regional NIAAA section (Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana) award last spring. She went on to win the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association National Scholar Athlete of the Year Award in Phoenix last December, as well as the Wooden Cup Award, presented by Athletes for a Better World, which she will receive in Atlanta this April.

Baldwin, pictured at right with Bishop Bradley at the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship Award Banquet last spring, earned second place in the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship program for her senior capstone project. While attending Hackett, Baldwin played soccer, volleyball and basketball while at Hackett and is currently a freshman at the University of Notre Dame studying neuroscience and behavior with a pre-med concentration.

The St. Monica Catholic School 2017/2018 Student Council crafted this official student prayer:
Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the privilege St. Monica School gives, which allows us to share, practice, and know that God lives.
St. Monica, intercede for us during the course of this day. Encourage us to trust in God and to pray.
St. Joseph of Cupertino, patron of education, help us to be thankful for our teachers, family, staff, and their dedication.
Holy Spirit, our comforter, be by our side for protection and lead us in the heavenly direction. Amen.