Parish breaks ground on construction of new church

More than 20 years in the making, St. Clare Parish in Centreville broke ground on construction of their new church building on April 23, 2018 with a blessing ceremony with Bishop Bradley.

“St. Clare has been saving money from the beginning. We have had two pledge drives and numerous fundraisers including garage sales, chicken barbecues, bake sales and raffles among other things. Parishioners have continued to donate to the Building Fund,” said Parish Council Chairperson Katie Davidson. “The site for the new church is on land purchased from a deceased parishioner.”

According to Davidson the parish community hopes the new church will better serve its growing membership and be an even more welcoming Catholic presence in the community and for visitors. The larger facility will provide the parish with CCD rooms, wider aisles, larger capacity for weddings and funerals and also serve those with physical handicaps better.

“When I first came to the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 2009, we visited this site and I thought, ‘What a gorgeous site for a new church,’” said Bishop Bradley. “It is through the generosity of the parishioners that this church will be built and serve this community of faith for generations to come.” Construction is underway by Three Rivers-based Brussee/Brady Inc. The hope is to be in the new church by Spring 2019.

Catholic Families Student Art Contest winners chosen

Stunning photography, animated short films and vibrant artwork characterize this year’s entries for the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s fourth annual Catholic Families Student Art Contest. The contest is coordinated by Socorro Truchan, Associate Director of the diocesan Domestic Church ministry office and prizes are provided by the generous support of the Knights of Columbus. This year’s contest theme, “Life is a Gift,” highlights Pope Francis’ call to be “sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death.”

As with years past, entries were accepted into two grade categories (4-8 and 9-12) in four categories: art, writing, music and video. Entries were submitted from several schools within the diocese as well as two schools in other parts of Michigan.

The school with the most entries was St. Charles Borromeo School, Coldwater. Other schools that participated include Chiquitos Bilingual Montessori, Utica, Mich.; Father Gabriel Richard High, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo; Lake Michigan Catholic, St. Joseph; St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo; St. Mary, Sault Ste. Marie; and St. Mary’s Assumption, Bronson.

See back page for complete list of winners.

‘Tis the Season: The month of May is filled with many sacramental celebrations such as First Communions, Confirmations, Baptisms and Marriages. Shown above, a young boy who had just made his First Communion earlier in the day, embraces Bishop Bradley as his older (and newly confirmed) brother watches.

See this month’s Bishop’s Perspective for more thoughts on how we’re all to live out our sacramental promises and gifts.
FROM THE EDITOR
By Victoria Cessna

I had a recurring dream in middle school that went something like this: The phone rings and I race from my upstairs bedroom to the kitchen (where we housed our only phone) screaming along the way, “Don’t answer it—it might be God!” Then I’d wake up in a cold sweat, grateful that it was just a dream. Perish the thought that God would actually call me.

My dream began shortly after the last day of 5th grade when Sister Augusta gently handed back to each student their religion book with a personalized message. Her inscription to me was: “Very insightful answers—perhaps God is calling you to the religious life.”

Initially I wasn’t too upset thinking that she wrote that in each student’s book—similar to how we routinely write “Stay sweet!” in our friends’ yearbooks. But my nonchalance turned to panic when I began questioning my friends and fellow students and very few had received a similar prophecy.

Uh oh.

I was musing on this memory while reading through Pope Francis’ recent Apostolic Exhortation (Gaudete et Exsultate/Rejoice and Be Glad) and stumbled upon one of the headings: “The Lord Calls.”

And certainly while the Lord calls men and women to the religious life, those aren’t the only calls He’s making. He has an unlimited plan, so to speak, and calls each of us to a life of holiness. “For God’s life is communicated ‘to some in one way and to others in another,’” reminds Pope Francis.

I didn’t really have to worry about ignoring a call that never came because God called me to a vocation and an even more important call that supersedes all others: the call to be a saint.

Too often we associate being holy and journeying on the path to sainthood something that only a select few do. But what’s so engaging about Pope Francis’ current letter is that he reminds us that not only are we all called to be saints, it’s a calling that is attainable.

“We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves,” writes Pope Francis.

I don’t know about you but in my observation the world seems to have lost its collective manners. One theme that seems to be prevalent is that God’s people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbors, those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence.

We might call them ‘middle class of holiness.’”

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“I am particularly pleased that this Apostolic Exhortation has been published at the very time that our Diocese is focused on the continued implementation of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan with our recently identified Diocesan priorities, which include fostering priestly vocations, accompanying families toward holiness and activating missionary discipleship. I encourage all our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful to prayerfully read this Apostolic Exhortation as another wonderful spiritual resource to help us all continue moving forward in advancing the mission of the Church here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

“In this Easter Season, as we rejoice and are glad in the Resurrection and the Hope Jesus gives to all who follow Him, Pope Francis has given us one more reason to ‘Rejoice and Be Glad’ as each of us responds to Jesus’ call to grow in holiness.”

Bishop Paul J. Bradley statement on “Gaudete et Exsultate/Rejoice and Be Glad:

“The publication of the third Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, entitled, “Gaudete et Exsultate” (Rejoice and Be Glad), provides all of us with substantially good reason to do just that. Oftentimes papal Apostolic Exhortations are academically written and theologically charged documents that many people (clergy and lay) might find difficult to comprehend and irrelevant. That cannot be said about Pope Francis’ newest gift to the Church. In fact, he expressly writes: ‘What follows is not meant to be a treatise on holiness…’ my modest goal is to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us ‘to be holy and blameless before Him in love.’ (Eph. 1:4)”

“In five relatively brief chapters, Pope Francis deals with ‘The Call to Holiness,’ ‘Two subtle enemies of Holiness,’ ‘In the Light of the Master’ (a reflection on the Beatitudes and Matthew 25), ‘Signs of Holiness in today’s World’ and ‘Spiritual Combat, Vigilance and Discernment.’

“In his opening explanation on holiness, Pope Francis affirms the many examples of ordinary saints. Pope Francis writes, ‘I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of...”

Congregation of St. Joseph elects New Leadership Team

Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph have elected a new leadership team that will take office in August of this year, and serve until the year 2023. The five women elected are (Clockwise from top left) Sisters Marie Hogan, Sallie Latkovich, Pat Warbritton, Jaqueline Goodin, and Kathy Brazda.

In addition to the election, more than 500 sisters, lay associates and other partners in mission both in attendance and participating via live streaming from their home centers around the country, reaffirmed the community’s Generous Promises — four guiding statements of purpose first created when the congregation was formed in 2007 by uniting seven formerly independent communities of Sisters of St. Joseph.

Celebrate Humanae Vitae Golden Anniversary with talking circuit

It has been 50 years since Pope Paul VI released his last encyclical and still lives are changed every day by its teachings. If you have always wanted to dig deeper into Humanae Vitae, the diocese is offering an opportunity with a talking circuit featuring Jamin Herold, Associate Director of the Secretariat for Parish Life & Lay Leadership, and Dr. Don Bouchard, DO, President of Holy Family Healthcare.

Discussion will focus around the philosophical, theological, scientific and medical proofs found within Humanae Vitae and its relevance today. There will also be time for questions.

“`This year is the 50th anniversary of a wonderful document, Humanae Vitae,” said Herold. “This document is a monumental gift to the Church on the gift of life, sexuality, and marriage. In a world of #metoo this document proves to be the cure.”

Talks will be scheduled in each deanery. While dates are still being finalized at press time, you can check www.dikozoo.org for an updated schedule. Talks will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

May Intention from Pope Francis

Evangelization – The Mission of Laiety

That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.
The Bishop’s Perspective

The Memorable and Celebratory Month of May

May is the month that is filled with memorable events and celebrations of all kinds, from sacramental moments of First Communions and Confirmations, to the beginning of the College and High School Graduation season. Of course, we cannot forget Mother’s Day (May 13th), the day we celebrate the heart of every family and the one who remains so important to each of us, whether our mother is already living in Heaven or is still here with us on earth. And as we celebrate our natural mothers in May, we also devote this entire month of May to special devotions to our Blessed Mother. Yes, May is memorable and filled with good reasons to celebrate.

In addition to these particular events, liturgically we continue to celebrate the 50-day Easter Season which, this month, leads us to the great Feast of the Ascension on May 13th (Mother’s Day) and culminates on May 20th, the Solemnity of Pentecost, and the month of celebration ends with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity on Sunday May 27th, which is also the celebration of Memorial Day weekend, the first “summer” holiday weekend.

As People of Faith, in each of these special events and throughout these liturgical seasons and great Solemnities, we are truly celebrating God’s love for us, His People, and our love for God and one another. We who are blessed to be Baptized People of Faith — we who are members of the Body of Christ and vibrant participants in the sacramental life of the Church — we come to know God the Father’s unconditional love for us, the Son’s Saving Love in Jesus’ suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension, and the Holy Spirit’s powerful transformation of the frightened and confused Apostles into the bold, courageous and joyful Witnesses and Evangelizers they became through the spiritual power of Pentecost, and their subsequent going forth to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Good News of Jesus as Jesus commanded them, and as the Holy Spirit empowered them.

The reasons for reminding ourselves about this is much more important than for us to have a good sense of the Church’s history. The reason the Church calls us to celebrate these liturgical seasons and holds up for us these special Feasts is so that we are mindful of the fact that God continues to work in our midst in the very same way. Those actions of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit did not just take place 2,000 years ago on the first Easter and the original Pentecost; God the Father continues to demonstrate and make evident His unconditional love for us, as does the Son’s Saving effects that we experience in the Holy Eucharist and in all the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit’s work of inspiration and encouragement within each of us as baptized and confirmed Catholic Christians who dwells within each of our hearts making us truly “temples of the Holy Spirit”.

As I have been reminding all of our young people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit brings His gifts, which are indeed spiritually powerful, and they are free. The Holy Spirit does not force us to use those gifts; we are not coerced into following certain paths or making particular choices. The Holy Spirit is our “Advocate” — the one who stands beside us to advise, encourage, inspire, and guide; but who never forces Himself on us.

So, this month in the midst of all our memorable events and celebratory moments, it would be good for us to take a step back and, as a person of faith, think about what our faith means to us? How strong — how vibrant — how integrated is my faith with all the other parts of my life? Or as I heard in a sermon on Catholic Radio recently: “Does my faith shape the way I live my life, or does the way I live my life shape my faith?” And if our faith-life has grown a bit stale or routine, how do I renew my faith? How can I grow as a Disciple of Jesus? How can I rekindle the “fire of God’s Love” living within me, a “temple of the Holy Spirit”?

The most important thing we can do is to make sure that we have a strong and personal relationship with Jesus. Just as it is true for any human relationship, whether it is a relationship with one’s spouse, a relationship of parent/child, or a relationship between friends we are in the most important ingredient to a healthy and strong relationship is communication. If we fail to have open, honest, and regular communication, our marriage will grow stale, our parent/child relationship will become distant, and our friendships will be starved. Our relationship with Jesus is no different. It was just a week or so ago in the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Easter that Jesus used the image of Him being the Vine and we being the Branches to describe our relationship with Him (John 15:1-8). We can understand that clearly and see it in the beautiful Spring flowers and trees around us. As long as the branch stays firmly connected to the Vine, it will get the nourishment that it needs; if, however, the branch gets cut off in some way, it will wither and die. Our relationship with Jesus is critically important to our spiritual life, and we maintain our spiritual life through daily prayer, through at least weekly participation in the Mass and receiving Holy Communion, through frequent reading of the Scriptures, and regular participation in the Sacramental and devotional life of the Church.
The Western Michigan University (WMU) Knights of Columbus

Student Council received a “Council of Excellence” honor from the Midwestern Jesuit Jurisdiction along with a monetary stipend. Shown, from left to right, are: District Deputy Robert Smith, Regan Soekarmon, Jesuit Fr Bill Murphy, Pastor Fr Dan Hyman, Matt Thurston, Isaac Koerner.

Registration open for KDCCW June meeting

The Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (KDCCW) announces the summer event theme: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” on Wednesday, June 20. The event includes speakers, prayer, Mass, Newman’s Bookshoppe and more. Topics include Scatter Kindness, Side-walk Advocates, and Blessing Bags. Meet at St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The entry fee is $75/Golfer CASH or NEW 2018 Jeep ($35,000 value) for洞 all the trimmings and the raffle prizes…payable to: Knights of Columbus 1120 Saint Joseph, MI 49085 Attn: John Grover, Financial Secretary.

The Bishop’s Perspective

Continued from page 3

That will help us to be vibrant members of the Body of Christ, but it will also help us to be believing disciples and followers of Jesus, and joyful and courageous witnesses to our faith to all the world around us. This is how we are to live good and holy lives, which is the basic vocation that we all share through our Baptism into Christ — to be God’s Holy People; to live lives of holiness.

Pope Francis just wrote a beautiful Letter to the entire Church entitled “Gaudete et Exsultate”/“Rejoice and Be Glad”. It is an exhortation from our Holy Father to all of us, reminding us that the basic calling we have all received — to be holy people, and ultimately, when our lives in this world are ended, to become a part of the “Communion of Saints” in Heaven. In that Letter, Pope Francis wrote: “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness (to God’s Love) in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” (#14) Isn’t it true that sometimes we think of holiness as something out of the realm of possibility for most of us? Don’t we sometimes think that we’re too imperfect or human or sinful to ever hope for holiness. Pope Francis is the first to realize that we are all sinners; he counts himself among them — as do I. Yet, that does not change our purpose, and what should be our life-goal. And Pope Francis tells us that all we have to do, as we read above, is to bear witness to God’s love in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Notice, he doesn’t say that we have to be in church 24 hours a day. “In everything we do…wherever we find ourselves.”

And so, my dear Family of Faith, in this beautiful, memorable and event-filled month of May, may we give thanks to God for His great love for us; may we renew our love for Him and one another in our personal relationship with Jesus; may we set our sights on holiness as our ultimate goal in life. And through it all, while we can’t possibly expect to do all this on our own, let us rejoice in the great gift of the Holy Spirit who is right there, by our side, to be our Advocate, our guide and our constant companion. How can we go wrong?

Faithfully yours in Christ

es criticamente importante para nuestra vida espiritual, y mantenemos nuestra vida espiritual a través de la oración diaria, a través de la participación semanal en la Misa y recibiendo la Sagrada Comunión, a través de la lectura frecuente de las Escrituras y la participación regular en lo espiritual y devocional vida de la Iglesia.

Eso nos ayudará a ser miembros activos del Cuerpo de Cristo, pero también nos ayudará a ser dispuestos a creer y seguir los consejos de Jesús, y testigos alegría y valientes de nuestra fe a todo el mundo que nos rodea. Así es como debemos vivir vidas buenas y santas, que es la vocación básica que todos compartimos a través de nuestro Bautismo en Cristo: ser el Pueblo de Dios; vivir vidas de santidad.

El Papa Francisco acaba de escribir una bella carta a toda la Iglesia titulada “Gaudete et Exsultate”/ “Re- gocijate y sé feliz!” Es una exhortación de nuestro Santo Padre a todos nosotros, recordándonos ese llamado básico que todos hemos recibido — para ser personas santas, y en última instancia, cuando nues- tras vidas en este mundo se terminan, para convertirse en una parte de la “Comunión de los Santos” en el Cielo. En esa carta, el Papa Francisco escribió: “Todos estamos llamados a ser santos viviendo nuestras vidas con amor y dando testimonio (del Amor de Dios) en todo lo que hacemos, donde sea que nos encon- tratamos.” (#14) ¿No es cierto? ¿Es verdad que a veces pen- samos en la santidad como algo fuera de la posibilidad de la mayoría de nosotros? ¿A veces no pensamos que somos demasiado imperfectos, humanos o pecaminosos para esperar alguna vez la santidad? El Papa Fran- cisco es el primero en darse cuenta de que todos somos pecadores; él se cuenta entre ellos, al igual que yo. Sin embargo, eso no cambia nuestro propósito, y lo que debería ser nuestro objetivo de vida. Y el Papa Francisco nos dice que todo lo que tenemos que hacer, como lo leemos más arriba, es dar testimonio del amor de Dios en todo lo que hacemos, donde sea que nos encontremos. Fijate, él no dice que tenemos que estar en la iglesia las 24 horas del día. “En todo lo que hace- mos... donde sea que nos encontremos”. Y así, mi querida Familia de Fe, en este hermoso mes de mayo, memorable y lleno de eventos, que demos gracias a Dios por su gran amor hacia nosotros; que podamos renovar nuestro amor por El y por los demás en nuestra relación personal con Jesús; que podamos fijar nuestra vista en la santidad como nuestro objetivo final en la vida. Y a pesar de todo, aunque no podemos esperar hacer todo esto por nuestra cuenta, regocijémonos en el gran don del Espíritu Santo que está allá, a nuestro lado, para ser nuestro Abogado, nuestro guía y nuestro constante compañero. ¿Cómo podemos equivocarnos?

Fielmente suyos en Cristo,
Traveling Chalice unites parish in prayer for priesthood vocations
By Nicole L.V. Mullis

Catholics have long embraced implements of prayer, be it a crucifix, a patron saint medal or a strand of Rosary beads. When it comes to praying for vocations to the priesthood, the parishioners of St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek share a very special implement — a traveling chalice.

St. Philip pastor Fr. John Fleckenstein brought the concept to the Knights of Columbus Council 1114 and then-parishioner Mary Chrisher, who had instituted a holy hour of prayer for priests the first Saturday of every month. The idea was to have an un consecrated chalice and paten that parishioners could take home for a week at a time and pray for vocations.

“It’s something visible that can remind people of the need to pray for vocations to the priesthood,” Fr. Fleckenstein said.

The widow of fourth-degree Knight Deacon Bernard Mileski donated a chalice, and Knight Gus Groat created a special box to hold both it and the paten. Chrisher researched and developed a book of prayers for vocations to the priesthood, which is presented with the traveling chalice as a guide to the host family.

“If we don’t have priests, we don’t have sacraments,” Chrisher said. “I wish every parish could understand the need to pray for the priests we have and the ones we still need.”

Knight Jim Huysentruyt got the word out to parishioners, organizing the sign-up sheet and overseeing the transfers. When initial interest waned, Huysentruyt put away the chalice. Knight Bruce Behrens and his wife Carla resurrected the practice after Huysentruyt’s sudden passing in March 2017.

“My wife and I decided we were not going to let it die,” Behrens said. “We’re going to carry it on. We’re going to do this for Jim. And interest has been very good lately.”

Interested parishioners call the parish office or sign-up inside the church. The Sunday before a family’s week begins, Fr. Fleckenstein presents them with the chalice after Mass, saying a special prayer he adapted from St. John Paul II.

One day, Fr. Fleckenstein hopes to gift the chalice to a St. Philip parishioner on his ordination day.

“When someone from this parish goes to the seminary and is ordained this very chalice will go to that person as a gift and a new chalice will be purchased,” Fr. Fleckenstein said. That day may be coming soon. St. Philip parishioner and diocesan seminarian, Jacob Thomas, is currently attending Sacred Heart Seminary.

Parishioners Betty and Jim Dillard often take the chalice, which they keep on their dining room table. They have designated times to pray over it, but Betty explained whenever they see it they offer up a little prayer.

 “[The chalice] represents the essence of the Catholic faith — the Eucharist,” Betty said. “The chalice is a part of what you see each Mass from the altar. It’s a visual reminder, like a picture or a crucifix, that puts the thought in your mind. It concretely connects us to what it is we are asking God for — to send more workers to the vineyard.”

Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues (KCSL) is a year-round opportunity for adults

Featuring a variety of sports over 6 - 8 week long stretches, KCSL is for anybody looking to play, the novice to the college athlete. The next league is softball and registration is now open! Please check-in with KCSL on Facebook (Kzoo Catholic Sports Leagues) to register or reach out to Tim at tnmcmara@diokzoo.org.

Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese is shown rounding the bases during a summer softball game. McNamara coaches the Diocese’s team, the Martyrs. Parish teams compete against each other during the summer.

Diocese hosts annual Spring retreat; plans summer Family Fun Day

Each Spring the Diocese hosts its annual retreat hosted by the Ministry to Persons with Disabilities Commission. Shown right: a volunteer helps a participant during craft time. Coming this summer the Commission will host a Family Day Mass and Picnic at St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek Sunday, August 12th. The fun day begins at 2 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bradley followed by a picnic-style meal in the Parish Hall. The Diocesan Commission on Disabilities continues to hosts listening sessions and inviting feedback for pastoral care.

If you have any questions or need any further information please contact Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Sanctity of the Human Person, lirwin@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0177.

The Other Six Days
By Jane and Ellen Knuth

Ellen: When I was little, my mom bought my sister and me small holy water fonts to hang on the wall next to our beds. We would take specially labeled plastic bottles to church every Sunday and scoop up a bit of water to take home for refills, carefully rationing it out until the week turned over and we did it again. It was a nice little ritual that continued for a few years; I don’t quite remember when the practice began or ended. Though our devotion to the little wall fonts lessened as we aged, our house was never completely devoid of holy water. Odds that a small bottle of blessed liquid was present in one of the closets or dresser drawers were favorable.

Even now, decades later, I have a good guess where to look to find a vial of holy water I was gifted several years ago. I haven’t used its contents to bless anything, but at the same time I also haven’t gotten rid of it. That same plastic bottle is half filled, slightly dusty, but intact and in my closet.

Jane: Ellen remembers more about the holy water fonts than I do. It surprises me how the small things we did with our kids hold places in their long-term memories.

This month, my fourth book is being released by Loyola Press. The title is The Prayer List: and Other True Stories of How Families Pray. It is filled with stories like the one Ellen told above, about families and the rituals that they do together at home. There are funny stories about kids, sad stories about saying goodbye to loved ones, miracle stories, and unexpected answers to prayer, and all of them, like holy water, are small blessings. Fifty-one different people shared their family stories with me over the past year, and I loved each one. I hope you do, too!
Por las Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu

El mes de mayo es dedicado para honrar a las madres, y la iglesia nos propone que de manera especial honremos a la Santísima Virgen María como Madre, que en nuestros días y en nuestro crecimiento espiritual ocupa un lugar muy esencial. Recordemos por un momento el papel que cumple la mamá en la vida de cada uno de nosotros, nos damos cuenta que es ella quien nos alberga en su vientre, nos alimenta y nos da a luz, quien nos cuida, nos enseña a caminar y a hablar, nos brinda el amor y el cariño suficiente para que podamos crecer seguros, ella es quien al lado de papá se preocupa por darnos todo lo necesario para que podamos crecer y ser personas de bien. En la dura experiencia de aquellos que han crecido sin la mamá podemos constatar lo esencial que es la madre para todo ser humano.

Por esto Dios ha querido dejarnos a la Virgen María como Madre de todos los que queramos acogerla y creer en su amor maternal, ella como María como Madre de todos los que queremos acogerla y creer en su amor maternal, ella como Madre, que en nuestros días y en nuestro crecimiento espiritual ocupa un lugar muy esencial. Recordemos por un momento el papel que cumple la mamá en la vida de cada uno de nosotros, nos damos cuenta que es ella quien nos alberga en su vientre, nos alimenta y nos da a luz, quien nos cuida, nos enseña a caminar y a hablar, nos brinda el amor y el cariño suficiente para que podamos crecer seguros, ella es quien al lado de papá se preocupa por darnos todo lo necesario para que podamos crecer y ser personas de bien. En la dura experiencia de aquellos que han crecido sin la mamá podemos constatar lo esencial que es la madre para todo ser humano.

Este mes es una nueva oportunidad para renovar nuestro amor y cercanía con la Virgen María, no permitamos que simplemente sea un año más o nos conformemos con saber que existe y que es importante, sino que aceptemos el llamado que nos hace a renovar nuestra relación personal con ella, que como mamá está presente para que le platiquemos, le contemos nuestras alegrías y preocupaciones, le permitamos que nos acosa con cariño en sus brazos, que nos reprenda cuando estamos en el camino equivocado, que nos aconseje con sabiduría para ayudarnos a tomar decisiones importantes para nosotros y nuestra familia.

La presencia de la Virgen María nos ayuda a mantenernos cerca de Jesús y a ser miembros activos en nuestra parroquia, viviendo nuestra fe de una manera responsable y dinámica, haciéndonos pasar de la comodidad de solo recibir, a un compromiso serio de servir a los demás, especialmente aquellos que sufren por no conocer a Dios o no recibirlo en su vida, y los que están más excluidos por la sociedad.

Alegremente porque no somos huérfanos, tenemos a la Virgen María como verdadera Madre.

**Enseñar a los Padres a crear un Hogar Protegido de los Peligros Digitales**

Por Sorcoro Truchan, Oficina Diocesana – Iglesia Doméstica

El ritmo del cambio digital es cegador. Los padres a menudo se sienten preocupados, pero abrumados e inseguros de dónde encontrar la mejor información o cómo comenzar a proteger a su familia de los peligros digitales.

**Protect Young Eyes (por sus siglas en inglés: Proteger Jóvenes Ojos)** fue creado por padres que criaron nativos digitales, como usted. Nuestro equipo de expertos digitales habla de decenas de miles de padres y niños a nivel nacional. Podemos toda la mejor información en un solo lugar, ahorrándole un tiempo precioso y eliminando la frustración.

Los videos de este curso toman algunos de nuestros mejores contenidos "en vivo" y se proporcionan a los padres y adultos atentos que realmente quieren hacer algo acerca del peligro en línea. Es posible criar niños que aprendan a usar bien la tecnología. Pero, no hay crianza pasiva en la era digital. Si no hablas con ellos, entonces el "Dr. Google" lo hará. Los padres y adultos comprensivos que son observadores comprometidos e informados a menudo tienen niños que aprenden a usar bien la tecnología. Lo mostraremos cómo hacerlo para que sean padres informados e instructos en la era digital.

**Para mayores informes pueden comunicar con Sra. Sorcoro (una de las presentadoras) al 269-903-0199 o por medio electrónico al struchan@diodkoo.org**
Here & There

BISHOP BRADLEY’S CALENDAR

May 6 – 100th Anniversary of St. Rose School Mass, Hastings, 11 a.m.
May 23 – St. Philip Catholic Central Baccalaureate Mass, St. Philip Catholic Church, Noon
May 30 – Hackley Catholic Prep Baccalaureate Mass, St. Augustine Cathedral, 7 p.m.
June 1 – Lake Michigan Catholic High School Baccalaureate Mass, St. Joseph Parish, 9 a.m.
June 1-2 – Encounter
June 21 – Opening Mass, Fortnight for Freedom, St. Augustine Cathedral, 12:15 p.m.
July 4 – Closing Mass, Fortnight for Freedom, St. Augustine Cathedral, 9:30 a.m.

CONFERENCES

May 13 – St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, Noon
May 19 – St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, 5:30 p.m.
May 20 – St. Augustine Cathedral, 11:30 a.m.
May 31 – St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, 6 p.m.
June 3 – St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Niles, 11:30 a.m.
June 9 – St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, 4 p.m.
June 10 – St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw, 11 a.m.
June 10 – St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, 5 p.m.
June 16 – Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis, 11 a.m., 2 p.m.
June 23 – St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon, 4 p.m.

ACTIVITIES AROUND THE DIOCESE

May 10 – 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.
May 18 – Gaudium Christi, St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, 7:30-9 p.m. Time for Eucharist Adoration, live worship music, Gospel reflection. Contact: Tim McNamara, timonnamara@diokzoo.org.
May 18 – Vineyardopoly Dinner and Auction, 5:30 p.m. Vineyard Academy’s Annual Gala Dinner and Auction, Gull Lake Country Club. RSVP by May 4 – one.bidpal.net/vineyardgala2018
May 19 – 8th Annual Purse Bingo, St. Jerome Church, Battle Creek, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Bingo begins at 6 p.m. Cost is $12/person. Call 269-968-2218 for tickets.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be held the weekend of May 19-20

Although named after Catholic Relief Services, the most well known of the six Catholic agencies that receive funds from this collection, this collection should not be confused with the popular Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl program. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that serve some of the most marginalized people in the world and provide a broad range of services, including humanitarian aid, pastoral support, disaster relief, resettlement of individuals and families displaced due to war, violence or natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugee children, and legal and advocacy services for immigrants.

Your donation helps to Feed Jesus’ hunger in suffering refugees, the most well known of the six Catholic agencies that receive funds from this collection, through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund. Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disasters-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/index.cfm.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Reach out to comfort Jesus’ loneliness in isolated workers through the pastoral work of the USCBB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church. Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized through the public policy work of the USCBB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development. Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disasters through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund. Your support makes a difference for so many around the world!

To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/index.cfm.

New Battle Creek station welcomes Holy Family Radio Pledge drive

At prestate Rev. John Fleckenstein, Pastor of St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, was getting ready to hit the airwaves with the latest addition to the Holy Family Radio stations serving the Diocese. The station, WSPB 89.7FM, will be housed in a dedicated area in St. Philip Parish Offices. The blessing and first day on the air was scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd as Fr. John welcomes his first guest, Bishop Bradley [See June edition for full coverage of the new station and blessing ceremony.]

On May 16th Holy Family Radio will bring its annual Spring Pledge Drive to the station and welcome guests from around the Diocese of Kalamazoo. For more information or to listen online visit: www.holyfamilyradio.net.

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated by 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.

Diocese hosts Memorial Day Mass at Mt. Olive Catholic Cemetery

A Diocesan Memorial Day Mass will be held May 28th at Mt. Olive Catholic Cemetery, 2003 Mt Olive Rd, Kalamazoo, at 10 a.m. This year Mt. Olive will once again participate in the national Catholic Cemeteries celebration, “Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to our Heroes.” Active and veteran military members are invited to participate in the liturgy. Very Rev. James Richardson, VF, Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo and Dean of the Central Deanery, will be the celebrant. The Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard and participate in laying a wreath at the Veterans Memorial immediately after Mass. Veterans and military are invited to serve as flag and candle bearers during the opening and closing processions at Mass and also are invited to serve as lectors, participate in the presentation of the gifts. For more information contact: Mike Emmons, memmons@diokzoo.org.
Bishop’s Annual Appeal – How is my gift used?

It’s that time of year again where the faithful are asked to prayerfully consider participating in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal to support diocesan ministries, services and program. A frequently asked question is: “How is my gift used?”

Seminarians

“If it weren’t for The Bishops Annual Appeal, I wouldn’t have been a priest because I wouldn’t have been able to afford my education so I wouldn’t have been able to experience this great blessing of just being with God’s people.” Fr. Jose Haro, Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph and St. Jerome Parishes, Battle Creek, ordained May 2016 – the average cost for one year of seminary education is $50,000.

Hispanic and Migrant Farmworker Ministries

“During the summer our Hispanic population increases by 50 percent with all the migrant farmworkers who come to work in the fields in our area. The Bishop’s Annual Appeal truly is the charitable work of the Church for our brothers and sisters who come as migrant workers.” Fr. Jose Haro — the Bishop’s Annual Appeal funds clergy and staff assistance for our Hispanic and migrant ministry families, including additional priests in the summer months who help with sacramental preparation.

Professional Development and School Support

“We wear a lot of hats in our small schools so to have someone to go to with questions about enrollment and be that expert. And the Office of Schools has taken the time to get to know each of our schools so they understand our unique situations. They pull resources together that many schools in the diocese would usually not have access to on their own.” Brenda Mescher, principal, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Coldwater. The Office of Schools is the engine behind the 22 Catholic schools in the Diocese providing annual professional development programs and conferences, marketing and enrollment support and curriculum expertise.

In addition the Bishop’s Annual Appeal funds the $10,000 St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship Fund awarded to 10 high school seniors attending our Catholic High Schools.

Charity is that which flows from the very essence of who we are as Catholics. It should flow naturally from being people of faith and hope, to also live mindful of our responsibility to be people of charity. I am always very grateful for your sacrificial generosity. When there is need, your response is great. Our need through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal is to help further the mission of the Church and bring the love of Jesus to all who so desperately yearn for it through faith-formation programs, hope-filled family resources or an offer of a charitable outreach.” Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

2018 Catholic Families Student Art Contest Winners:

Winners are as follows: ART – Division I

FIRST PLACE: “The Light of Life” by Meredith Chenier & Addison Burleigh, 5th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo (Pictured left)

HONORABLE MENTION: “Give Love, Give Life” by Kate Van Es, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School (Pictured right)

“Jesus is the Gift of Life” by Alicia Duran, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School

“The Importance of Life” by Emma Bartholomew, 5th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School

“The Value of Life” by Sam Finley, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School

DIVISION II:

FIRST PLACE: “A Gift From Above” by Ryan Olexa, 12th grade, Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo (Pictured on cover)

WRITING: Division I – First Place

“Speak up for Life” by Christopher Kiekhaefer, 6th grade, St. Mary’s Catholic School, Sault Ste. Marie

Honorable Mention

“What God Has Given Me” by Sophia Andalon, 8th grade, St. Charles Borromeo School, Coldwater

“Life is a Gift” by Max Scheske, 8th grade, St. Mary’s Assumption School, Bronson

VIDEO: DIVISION I – FIRST PLACE

“Life is a Gift” by Collin Campbell, Christian Ynclan & Liam Roth, 5th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo

Honorable Mention

“Life is a Gift” by Evan Czuk & Kellen O’Brien, 5th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo