Bishop approves creation of Institute of Missionary Discipleship

By Victoria Cessna

Whether you learn best at 2 a.m. sitting at your laptop or within a group setting with live discussion, there are innovative, new diocesan faith formation courses. Currently the Diocese hosts two different leadership formation programs: the San Agustin Institute, a three-year program for Spanish-speaking lay leaders and the Lay Ecumenical Ministry Institute (LEMI), also a three-year program offered in English. In each of these programs participants commit to attending in classes once a month as well as annual retreats. The time commitment can be challenging for many.

However, the Institute will operate “much more like a college-type setting, not just a singular program,” notes Herold. “Any volunteer wanting to dive deeper in his or her faith will find a course or program that is suited to them.”

Day Trainings:

These programs are six-hour day trainings offered throughout the year. Topics planned include: Introduction to Missionary Discipleship, Called and Gifted, Discernment of Spirits and Art of Accompaniment. Each day will feature expert speakers.

Seminars:

Qualified local instructors will lead up to eight different seminars throughout the year. Planned topics range from intercultural Ministry to Risk Management to Identifying Gifts in Others.

Catechetical Institute:

The Diocese, in partnership with Franciscan University, will offer online courses. Currently the University is uploading multiple courses and is adding up to 80 courses a year with a total goal of up to 600 offerings. The courses are divided by tracks but is suited for both individuals as well as parish ministers. Visit www.franciscanunahome.com and-click and workshops for a course sampling.

And the cost?

“We’re working diligently to explore grants and other financing avenues so we are able to offer this to anyone in the Diocese at an extremely reduced rate,” said Herold, “or hopefully for free.”

In fact all the online courses will be free to users and people should be able to sign up for them by August.”

Herold is currently working with the diocesan Communications department on a roll-out plan which includes a comprehensive dedicated website (ADRESS) as well as a promotional and marketing plan.

The Institute for Missionary Discipleship will offer its first day training course this August, with “the Art of Accompaniment” on August 18 at Lawerence Education Center at Borgess Hospital.[page 11]

For more information contact Jamin Herold, jherold@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0183 or visit the website at: www.imdisciple.com

Kalamazoo United group plans community-wide service day

Last fall more than 3,000 people filled Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo for the Kalamazoo United prayer event. Jeff Wenke, Pastor, The Bridge, Portage and Bishop Bradley, co-organizers of Kalamazoo United, considered the event a great success as a visible show of Christian unity. The hope was to inspire greater unity and collaboration among Protestant and Catholic Churches in the Kalamazoo area. The logical follow-up question for the Kalamazoo United planning committee was, “What now?”

As the group was pondering potential next steps Richard Rethoret came forward with the idea of “Kalamazoo United Day of Service” (KUDOS). He was inspired by The Bridge Church’s bi-monthly Community Impact days where Church members devote a Saturday to serving the community.

This city-wide event will invite Christians to take part on a day of service on Saturday October 27 which marks the one-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo United Event. The goal is to have 500 people working on 30 projects throughout the area. Projects could range from working at a food pantry to helping with light maintenance work at a nonprofit agency and more.

The tentative schedule for KUDOS will be for a morning kick-off at Kalamazoo Christian High School for a time of prayer before the teams depart for their service projects.

Currently Rethoret is forming a KUDOS team to plan the event. Those interested in the event or serving may contact him at: richard.rethoret@gmail.com.

More information on Kalamazoo United or to sign-up to receive the weekly prayer focus, visit: www.kalamazooisunited.com

Bishop pens new pastoral letter to the newly confirmed

“Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit,” is the latest pastoral letter written by Bishop Bradley to all the newly confirmed in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Each young person confirmed by Bishop Bradley this year will receive a copy of the Pastoral Letter mailed to their home. In the opening of his letter Bishop Bradley writes, “I write to you as your Bishop to let you know how proud I am of you and to assure you of my ongoing prayers that you may welcome the Holy Spirit into your heart. Please keep yourself open to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit available to you, so that your life will bring forth the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in all that you say and do.”

Each year approximately 1,000 young people, middle school through High School, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by Bishop Bradley. Recognizing the pivotal moment this is in a young person’s faith journey, Bishop Bradley sought to welcome them into a new phase of their faith and encourage their active participation in the life of the Church.

He closes his letter with an invitation to the newly confirmed, “…we need you, the Church needs you. Our Diocese of Kalamazoo needs you. Your Parish needs you. As you continue your faith journey may you be inspired to become an active member of the Body of Christ and know that you are not alone. We are all here with you, joined in our love for each other and for the Church.”

A digital version of the letter may be found on www.diokzoo.org.
FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna

My sisters were a handful. Rambunctious, mischievous, pint-sized energizers bunnies from the day they came into this world. That day (a few decades ago—pre-supersonic technology) was a shock as my mom didn’t know she was carrying identical twins, until well, they were born. But, boy, for me their older sister (by a mere six years) were they fun whether they were toddling behind me or snuggling up as I read bedtime stories to them.

However, as fun as they were for me, and as much a blessing as their surprise entry into the world was, they were certainly exhausting for my mom who was already managing the lives of their four older siblings. And while we could fend for ourselves a bit with trips to the library, the pool or a sports game or practice, my sisters were too young to tag along.

My mom, adept at innovative problem-solving, a side-effect to managing a large family, came up with a brilliant solution. She enrolled my sisters in every single Vacation Bible School she could find in addition to our Parish: Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian— you name it. Our little town had a church on every corner and each one of those communities welcomed my sisters.

And while I marvel at my mom’s resourcefulness it taught and modeled for me more than just how to nab a few hours of free time. What her solution really conveyed is that free time and faith time aren’t mutually exclusive. She had the deep commitment to our Catholic faith, confident that a church’s preschool program and each one of those communities welcomed my sisters. And while yearning for a reprieve from her twins, at the same time she wanted their free time to be meaningful.

You can do the same thing, Consider keeping a faith-building book in your beach bag (I like My Life with the Saints by Fr. James Martin, S.J.). If you take a summer vacation—or if you visit family or friends in another city—listen to and pray the rosary during those road trips. Scout out Mass schedules ahead of time by visiting www.MassTmes.org. Some of my most cherished travel memories are those when I’ve visited a church in a new location. And most importantly during this (hopefully) relaxed summer, keep talking to God whether you’re working in your garden, taking a long walk, or driving to work. Imagine if your best friend or your own children went away for three months and didn’t have any contact with you at all.

God gave us the gift of the seasons—why not return the favor and give Him the gift of your time.

July Intention from Pope Francis

Evangelization – Priests and their Pastoral Ministry

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

I hereby designate The Good News as the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, suspensions, etc. shall use the caption “Official” as to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinion columns, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

PUBLISHED: monthly/10 times per year

DIoCeSan annoUnCEMenTS

Deacon Gerald (Jerry) Smoker, 85, of Bronson, passed away on June 5, 2018. Deacon Smoker was ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese in 1972 just one year after the founding of the Diocese. He served at St. Charles Borromeo, Coldwater, Our Lady of Fatima, Union City, Holy Angels, Sturges, St. Barbara, Colon and St. Mary, Bronson. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Bradley. Dcn. Smoker enlisted in the United States Army on September 12, 1956 and was honorably discharged on August 31, 1962, obtaining the rank of SP4. While stationed in Korea he served as a food service supervisor and Chaplain’s Assistant. He graduated from Orchard Lake St. Mary’s High School & College and St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Deacon Jerry also attended St. John’s Provincial Seminary, Sacred Heart Seminary, Nazareth College. He earned his MA Degree from Western Michigan University. Dcn. Smoker retired from the Sturgis Public School System in 1995 after 40 years in education. After retirement, Jerry was involved as a substitute teacher at St. Mary’s in Bronson, tutoring at BAYP, serving on the Board of the Bronson Area Youth Program and as a member of the Pastoral Council at St. Mary’s Bronson. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his daughters, Rose Ann Smoker of Bronson and Mary Catherine Smoker of Richland; his grandchildren, Nathan (Nickie) Savage, Jason (Lisa) Smoker, Ashley (Joseph) Drennan; his great grandchildren, Jordan (Clemens) Savage, Caden and Cohen Smoker, Jayden and Brody Drennan; his sister, Diane (Alvin) Losinski of Bronson.

Ms. Jillian Kellough, Associate Superintendent/Director of Curriculum for the Office of Schools, was recently awarded her Phd from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, where she has spent the last three years continuing her studies, but also working as a Learning Design Research Assistant, Lecturer and Tutor. She will be awarded her doctorate during graduation ceremonies at the university later this year. Kellough, who began her position with the Diocese this past January, has a depth of educator experience including teaching positions at St. Margaret Catholic School in Otsego as a First Grade/Kindergarten Teacher and also as the Technology Director/Website Coordinator. Kellough earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master’s in the Art of Teaching from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids.

U.S. Bishops release Annual Report on the Protection of Children and Young People


The 2017 report (audit year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) notes the ongoing work of the Church in continuing the call to ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults. In 2017, more than 2.5 million background checks were conducted on Church clerics, employees, and volunteers. More than 2.5 million adults and 4.1 million children have also been trained on how to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to report those signs.

The report states that 654 adults came forward with 695 allegations. Compared to 2015 and Regarding Charter Compliance, the report noted the following:

19 dioceses were found compliant with the Charter.

191 diocese/eparchies participating in the 133 data collection audits were found compliant with the data collection process.

Of the sixty-one dioceses/eparchies participating in the on-site audits, all were found compliant except for three eparchies.

The Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People continues to emphasize that the audit and the maintaining zero-tolerance policies are important tools in the Church’s broader program of creating a culture of protection and healing that exceeds the requirements of the Charter.

This is the fifteenth report since 2002 when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, making a promise to protect and a pledge to heal. The full Annual Report can be found on the diocesan website’s Safe Environment page: www.diokzoo.org.
The Bishop’s Perspective
Summertime Holiness

After a long winter and a rather odd spring, we find ourselves ready for summer and all the season brings. Students are beginning to enjoy their summer vacation, families are planning summer-time activities, and hopefully, we all will experience a bit of a more relaxed schedule for the next few months. Even in our Liturgical schedule, the festive Season of Easter and Pentecost, and the subsequent Solemn Feasts, have been completed, and we have returned to what we call the “Ordinary Time” of the liturgical year.

The Ordinary time of the year makes up the largest part of our liturgical calendar, and it represents our day-by-day life in this world, as we deal with our daily responsibilities to God, Church, family, friends, work, school and our community and nation; in other words, everything that we are “ordinarily” called to do in our daily lives. These summer months, during which we have more time to relax and catch up on what we find ourselves saying we have no time for due to our busy schedules, provide us with a great opportunity to remind ourselves of what is important in our lives, and to renew our commitments to all the ordinarily important relationships in our lives.

This past April, Pope Francis wrote all of us a beautiful reflection (known as an “Apostolic Exhortation”) on the universal call to holiness. He entitled it: Gaudete et Exsultate (Latin for “Rejoice and Be Glad”), with the subtitle: On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World. In this letter, Pope Francis addresses everyone of us at the most ordinary level of our spiritual lives; he reminds us of something that is so basic and fundamental to our spiritual identity, and yet one that we may be unaware of or overlook. We remember from our religious education catechism classes that on the day each of us was baptized, we were washed clean of Original Sin and we also were incorporated into the Body of Christ. Our baptism set us on a journey of faith which will see us through all the years we live in this world, and will culminate when we pass from this life into the Kingdom of Heaven. And from the day of our baptism forward, because we are baptized into Christ, we are called to live lives of Holiness. As the Second Vatican Council teaches in the Dogmatic Constitution On the Church: Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the Faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord — each in his or her own way — to that perfect holiness by which the Father Himself is perfect. (#11)

In paragraph 14 of Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis beautifully summarizes this call: To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. That is a beautiful definition of holiness, as Pope Francis sees it. Holiness is “living our lives with love and bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” Notice that Pope Francis doesn’t say we have to be in church, or even in prayer; in everything we do — wherever we find ourselves — we are to remember who we are: people who are baptized into Christ and are members of His Body. Pope Francis gets a little more specific in that same paragraph. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by living and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain. (#14)

Keeping the Holy Father’s words in mind, I would like to suggest three summer-time activities we all might consider as we plan our more-relaxed “to-do” lists for the next few months: to play, pray and display our faith in Jesus.

Play: Making time to relax, have fun, read, go to the beach, sit on the porch, sleep in or stay up late — all of those are great ways to allow more time to play during these summer months. Taking a break from homework and other responsibilities can be life-giving. However, just as we don’t take a break from our basic responsibilities nor give up taking care of our normal physical needs, neither can we take a break from our basic responsibilities to God. Coming to Mass every Sunday (Saturday evening) is just as important during the summer time. Whether we’re going to the lake or taking a trip to another part of the world, we need to always make sure that we are making time to get to Mass and remaining faithful to our call to holiness in what we’re doing. Additionally, being able to find joy in games with others, and good fun with family and friends is truly re-invigorating. As Pope Francis says: Far from being...
Trained mental health professionals needed for Trauma Recovery Program

By Dr. Phyllis Florian,
Director, The Trauma Recovery Program

The Trauma Recovery Program has been serving the people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo since 2002. This program is free of charge to anyone who was abused (emotionally, physically, sexually) in childhood and has unresolved trauma issues. Over the years, the program has served approximately 30 to 50 participants annually and more than 500 in total since its inception.

At this time, the Trauma Recovery Program is recruiting mental health professionals who are trained in the Trauma Model, or who are willing to be trained, to serve as facilitators of the weekly learning component. The learning component includes 10 weeks of classes, offered twice a year. Facilitators are also needed for the bi-weekly support groups. This component runs for 16 weeks, and is offered twice a year. Stipends are available for these positions.

Please contact Dr. Phyllis Florian to learn more about this opportunity. Call 269-903-0134 and leave a message.

Dios Bendiga, ahora y siempre!
The Other Six Days
By Jane Knuth and Ellen Knuth

Praying Hands
Jane: The first time I saw someone hold hands during the Our Father during Sunday Mass, I was sitting behind my best friend's family. Her father had cancer, and at this point, the battle with the disease had been going on for a while. He was a private individual, so sharing a struggle like this one was not a natural thing for his personality to embrace. For many months, he had kept the cancer a secret before he revealed it to even his closest relatives.

By the time that this particular Sunday—the hand-holding one—came around, the cancer was not hide-away any longer, so everyone knew. I watched as he picked up his wife's hand gently, then turned and did the same to his daughter. They clasped each other's fingers through the entire prayer. I got misty-eyed watching them pray this way.

In some Parishes, it is common for people to hold hands during the Our Father in church, and whenever someone reaches toward me I think to myself, "Maybe they have cancer? Perhaps this is the last time they will pray in church? Maybe this prayer is too big to keep to myself?"

Ellen: Hand gestures and the timing of them helped guide me through Mass as a child. Upon entering the church, we'd dip our fingers in the holy water font and bless ourselves, and then we'd make the sign of the cross again when we genuflected at the end of the pew. Later in the Mass, I'd watch as the priest held his arms wide, beckoning everyone's attention, or I'd slowly ease the kneeler down, trying to avoid making a huge clunking sound. Holding hands during prayers or exchanging handshakes while saying "peace be with you" were all key moments in the liturgy.

For me, the movement of hands became just as much a part of the service as the prayers. They paced me through it, kept me engaged, and brought me in contact with those around me. Even now, when the words of the liturgy have changed a bit and I occasionally stumble over the new phrasing, I can still make the sign of the cross at exactly the right moment.

Talking circuit highlights *Humanae Vitae* during its 50th anniversary
By Sarah DeMott

1968. It was a tumultuous time that is etched in history as the year of the tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, countless protests of the Vietnam War and shifting cultural norms as more than 6 million women began using the birth control pill, introduced just eight years earlier. The year also marks a significant time in the history of the Church as many awaited the encyclical from Blessed Pope John VI where it was anticipated he would address the topic of artificial contraception.

*Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life) affirmed the Church’s teaching on the sanctity of life and the richness of the landmark encyclical is often overshadowed by the controversy it caused. In honor of its 50th Anniversary the Diocese is hosting a five-stop speaking circuit featuring Executive Director of Parish Life and Lay Leadership, Jamin Herold and President of Holy Family Healthcare, Deacon Don Bouchard, DO.

“At the time when *Humanae Vitae* was first released 50 years ago, we were in the throes of the sexual revolution,” said Herold. “And now, in the throes of the #metoo movement, with all the conversations about consent, sexual oppression and women’s rights, this is an opportune time to renew discussions of what this document was all about and see how the Church can be a witness to the world of what true freedom and love look like.”

Dcn. Don Bouchard will offer a medical perspective on the implications of the encyclical on Catholic health professionals, both morally and medically. Other topics that will be covered during the talks include looks at what a real relationship aimed toward the sacrament of marriage is, how contraception has encouraged a “throwaway culture”, the health and relationship benefits of Natural Family Planning methods and more. There will also be time for questions at the end, and an opportunity will be available to submit questions anonymously.

Herold adds that he believes that contraception has become so widely promoted that oftentimes people are unaware of the facts surrounding its usage.

“We’re going to take a look at how something that is supposedly freeing for women is actually one of the only cases of medically stopping a physiological normal and healthy process and treating it [fertility] as if it were a disease,” he said. “There are lots of ramifications of this and Blessed Pope John VI condemned them in *Humanae Vitae*.

To conclude the circuit, Bishop Paul J. Bradley will celebrate Mass on July 25, the 50th anniversary of the release of *Humanae Vitae*, at 6 p.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral.

For more information, contact Jamin Herold, jherold@diokzoo.org.

Serving Others in God’s Love:
Religious Freedom Week – June 22 to June 29, 2018
By Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Diocesan Office of the Sanctity of the Human Person

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the week of June 22-29, 2018 “Religious Freedom Week.” This seven-day period, during which the feasts of St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher and SS. Peter and Paul are celebrated, will focus on the importance of preserving the essential right of religious freedom, now and in the future, for Catholics and people of all faiths.

People of faith are committed to bringing God’s love to those in need. These ministries, sponsored by dioceses, Catholic Charities, and other faith-based agencies, provide services that touch the lives of countless individuals and families in areas such as healthcare, child welfare, migration and refugee resettlement, and education. Christians are encouraged to reflect on the importance of religious freedom which provides the space for these ministries of love, mercy and service to be carried out. Join Catholics across the country to pray and act for the freedom to serve faithfully and with integrity. Download Pray-Reflect-Act one-pagers for each day of Religious Freedom Week, and access for more information at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek.

Back to the Future – 4 predictions from *Humanae Vitae*

*Humanae Vitae* is often called a prophetic encyclical. Here are four predictions Pope Paul VI made about the consequences of normalizing contraception.

1. Infidelity and moral decline
"Let them first consider how easily this course of action could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards. Not much experience is needed to be fully aware of human weakness and to understand that human beings—and especially the young, who are so exposed to temptation—need incentives to keep the moral law, and it is an evil thing to make it easy for them to break that law." (17)

2. Loss of respect for women
“Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection.” (17)

3. Abuse of power
“Finally, careful consideration should be given to the danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law...Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone.” (17)

4. Unlimited dominion
“Just as man does not have unlimited dominion over his body in general, so also, and with more particular reason, he has no such dominion over his specifically sexual faculties, for these are concerned by their very nature with the generation of life, of which God is the source.” (13)
All seniors from the three Catholic high schools within the Diocese are required to complete a senior Capstone Project on a topic of their choosing, demonstrating their understanding of the Catholic faith as well as their academic, organizational, presentation and leadership skills. Each year the Diocese of Kalamazoo awards the top 10 with a St. Thomas Aquinas scholarship varying in amount from $500 up to the first place scholarship of $5,000. Scholarship winners were honored at a banquet with Bishop Bradley on May 8, 2018.

Winners and their topic are shown right:
Battle Creek school community fosters inclusion

By Nicole Mullis

More than 30 percent of students from Battle Creek Area Catholic schools’ (BCACS) community come from underrepresented racial and cultural groups. Administrators believe this vibrant diversity is a gift to BCACS, though they recognize it also comes with a challenge.

“It is important we treat all students with respect and provide the same opportunities,” St. Philip High School principal Vicky Groat said. “You may think you are treating people equitably when in fact you are not even close.”

BCACS leaders formed a diversity committee to help address this challenge.

“We have a diverse school, but we need to focus on the inclusion part of diversity,” said Kyra Rabbitt, St. Philip history teacher and member of the BCACS diversity committee.

The BCACS Foundation secured a Battle Creek Community Foundation grant to provided staff with diversity training.

“As a school and a foundation we need to make sure we are doing our part to make every school family truly feel a part of our BCACS family,” BCACS Foundation development director Louanne McIntyre said. “We need to look at and address how we approach equity and inclusion in our schools and our fundraising.”

The Center for Diversity and Innovation instructors led the multi-day training.

“[They] challenged our staff to reflect on the history of individual and institutional racism and how to understand the lives of others in this present day,” said Beth Hutchinson, St. Joseph School institutional specialist and BCACS diversity committee member. “Our staff experienced an increased awareness of diversity and the challenge to continue and improve equity capacity-building in our schools.”

“We may not have all of the right answers when it comes to communicating and recognizing our own bias, but the diversity training was a great first step toward creating a learning environment in which everyone in our school community feels welcomed and loved,” St. Joseph School assistant-principal Katie Reed said.

The BCACS Foundation hosted a Multicultural Night on May 5th at St. Joseph to encourage greater inclusion. A diverse committee, including Marilyn Robinson, Colleen Thome, Conrado and JoEllen Campos, Miriam Vilchis, and Betty Dwe Hein, rallied parish and school families for support.

“[This event] gave the Foundation and me a chance to meet some incredible advocates for our schools who I have never worked with before,” said Ben Roosevelt, BCACS Foundation vice-president and BCACS diversity committee founder. “It broke down a huge hurdle we have had in joining with fellow Christians who may not look like we do, yet have the same goals.

More than 200 people attended the event, which included a trilingual Mass, a dinner featuring Mexican, Burmese, and Southern cuisine, a traditional Burmese dance, and a variety of games for all ages.

The BCACS community intends to continue its efforts toward greater inclusion of all people in its community.

“We’ve made a lot of improvements this year,” Rabbitt said. “We’ve been more conscious about sending out communications in multiple languages having translators at conferences, and hosting a multicultural night. We have more work to do, but I’m glad that we have started and that we are doing the work.”

Battle Creek Area Catholic schools students come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures with more than 30 percent of the total study body coming from underrepresented groups.

Diocesan Office of Schools honors Seton Award professional development winners

Each year the Diocese of Kalamazoo awards Seton Award professional development grants to teachers, schools and projects from around the Diocese. Awardees were honored with a banquet on May 10, 2018.

The 2018 Seton Awardees are as follows


Multi-School Award Winners: David Kubel, Principal, St. Mary’s Assumption School, Bronson. Brenda Mescher, Principal, St. Charles Borromeo School, Coldwater.

Knights of Columbus St. Monica Council 12998, awards scholarship

Allison Wolf, a graduate of Hackett Catholic Prep, was awarded the first $1,000 scholarship from the Knights of Columbus St. Monica Council 12998. The scholarship is open to all high school students who are members of St. Monica Parish. Shown from left to right are: Grand Knight Ron Van Houten, Scholarship Committee Pete Abraham, parents Adam and Tina Wolf, recipient Allison Wolf Scholarship Committee Tony Cipich and Pastor Rev. Larry Farrell.
Catholic Dioceses contribute more than $58.7 Million to natural disaster recovery efforts

WASHINGTON—In response to the destruction caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and earthquakes in Mexico, Catholics across the United States have contributed nearly $59 million to relief and recovery efforts. Initiated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), special collections and funds were launched last year to support humanitarian relief efforts as well as to provide pastoral services and financial support to rebuild facilities in dioceses impacted by these disasters.

“The devastation wrought by last year’s unprecedented disasters continues to impact the lives of our brothers and sisters in the United States, across the Caribbean, and in Mexico. We are profoundly grateful to the dioceses that took up special collections or made donations,” said Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, chairman of the USCCB Committee on National Collections. “The support of parishioners is an act of charity and a reflection of love for neighbor. We ask for continued prayers of support for the people affected by these historic natural disasters.”

As of mid-May 2018, US dioceses have remitted the following amounts for relief efforts:
- Hurricane Harvey — $37.2 Million
- Hurricane Irma — $12.8 Million
- Hurricane Maria — $6.1 Million
- Mexico Earthquakes — $3.5 Million

Local Stats — the Diocese of Kalamazoo collected more than $160,000 for Hurricane Harvey and close to $80,000 for Hurricane Irma.

Humanitarian relief and recovery efforts are being provided by Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). CCUSA is receiving 50 percent of Hurricane Harvey funds and 30 percent of both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria funds; CRS is receiving 30 percent of Hurricane Irma funds. Initial funding from the special collections supported immediate needs such as food, clean water, hygiene products, and shelter. Long-term disaster recovery is currently underway. CCUSA recently distributed $13.5 million to nine Catholic Charities agencies in Texas and Louisiana where Hurricane Harvey affected countless people.

In response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, CRS worked with Caritas Havana in Cuba to provide roofing and mattresses to affected families. In the British Virgin Islands, CRS, Caritas Antilles and the British Red Cross set up a joint cash program to help 740 families buy essential items. In Dominica, CRS and Caritas Antilles distributed 750 hygiene kits, 1,590 tarps, 920 buckets and 660 water filters to more than 600 families in four communities in the hardest-hit southeastern region. In the Dominican Republic, CRS partners provided 1,970 families with vouchers for food, hygiene and living supplies, and 330 families with hygiene kits. Teams also worked with the local health ministry to raise awareness about health and hygiene, particularly the danger of waterborne diseases and other health risks.

Two Mexico earthquakes days apart killed nearly 500 people in September 2017 and destroyed homes, infrastructure and utilities, CRS, Caritas Mexico and local partners constructed transitional shelters and distributed 2,859 tarps to vulnerable families. They set up communal cooking facilities to ensure daily hot meals and provided living supplies, including kitchen sets and locally made clay ovens. CRS and its partners also arranged counseling for 1,040 children and young people dealing with grief, distress and trauma from the earthquakes. Moving forward, CRS will train people to build back better using disaster-resilient construction techniques, and to maintain their shelters. In four communities, community-based disaster response teams are being trained in first aid. This outreach was done through CRS’s direct fundraising efforts.

The USCCB Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions is managing the US Church share of Hurricane Harvey (50 percent), Hurricane Irma (30 percent) and Hurricane Maria (55 percent) funds. The Subcommittee has awarded $14 million in Hurricane Harvey grants, and $3 million in Hurricane Irma grants to assist with Church repairs to parishes and schools in dioceses impacted by the hurricanes. Requests from dioceses for Hurricane Maria support will be considered at the Subcommittee’s June 14 meeting.

The USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America is managing the Caribbean Church share of Hurricane Irma (20 percent) and Hurricane Maria (15 percent) funds, as well as all contributions to the Mexico Earthquakes fund.

Distributions to the responding organizations will continue to be made as funds are received.

Bishop approves request to continue Priests Retirement Fund Collection

The Priests Retirement Board, consisting of clergy and lay leaders, recommended the continuation of the Priests Retirement Fund Second Collection. Bishop Bradley approved the recommendation and the second collection will continue for an additional five years in the Diocese from 2019-2023.

“We have been abundantly blessed by the generosity of our people who have enthusiastically supported the special Second Collection for Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund which we began in 2014 to extend for 5 years, with the goal of strengthening the Priests’ Pension Fund, which was not fully funded at that time,” noted Bishop Bradley. However Bishop Bradley approved the continuation to further strengthen retirement benefits for diocesan priests.

“While we are currently fortunate to have a healthy Pension fund, due in no small part to the generosity of the Faithful of our Diocese through this special Second Collection, as well as a strong and steady stock market, we need to achieve even greater stability for our priests in their retirement for the years to come.”

Currently, the diocesan Pension payout is among the lowest of all the Dioceses in the State of Michigan. The collection will make possible the ability to increase the monthly pension benefit and weather stock market fluctuations.

World Youth Day Cross and Icon to travel around United States

WASHINGTON—The official World Youth Day (WYD) Cross and Marian Icon, entrusted to the youth and young adults of the world by St. John Paul II in 1984, will make a multi-city tour of the United States in August 2018, the first time in twenty-five years such a coordinated journey has occurred.

The USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth (LMFLY), in particular its World Youth Day USA (WYDUSA) initiative, is coordinating the national tour.

The Cross and Icon will travel across the country from Sunday, August 19 to Monday, August 27, 2018. The five stops along its U.S. journey will include, in order: Chicago, Illinois; Miami, Florida; Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Los Angeles, California.

Archbishop José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, O.S.A., Metropolitan Archbishop of Panama and host of the next international World Youth Day gathering in January 2019, extended the Latin American tour of the WYD symbols to include the United States.

Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport and WYD USA coordinator, said, “We are grateful for this opportunity to host these incredible and unifying symbols in our country. I hope that young people and young adults will have an encounter with Christ and his mother Mary through the Cross and Icon, just as many have during World Youth Day. This summer tour is also very timely because August 2018 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the last time the pilgrim cross made a journey across the United States in advance of WYD 1993 in Denver.”

The Cross has traveled around the globe since 1984, when St. John Paul II gave it to young people. It has been part of every World Youth Day celebration beginning with the first official WYD event in Rome in 1986. In 2002, the Cross came to Ground Zero in New York City for a brief visit to bring comfort to the nation’s young people in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In 2003, St. John Paul II presented the world’s youth and young adults with a Marian Icon, under the title of Salus Populi Romani, which has accompanied the WYD Cross for the past fifteen years.

More information about the nationwide journey of the WYD symbols will be released, as details are known, on the USCCB’s World Youth Day website, www.wydua.org and social media channels (@wydua).
An appetite for Adoration leads St. Ann to Perpetual Adoration

By Nicole LV Mullis

St. Ann Parish began Perpetual Adoration on Pentecost, but it came about in God’s time.

The journey started when parishioner Anne Jakubowski took a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1995. “Before my return, the Lord placed the desire to help initiate Eucharistic Adoration at our parish,” Jakubowski said. “I had spent time in Adoration while in Medjugorje and on my return to commit to a holy hour at St. Philip Parish.”

The work, however, wasn’t done. “I knew Blessed Virgin Mary wanted Perpetual Adoration, but I had no clue how it would ever happen in a small parish such as ours,” Jakubowski said. But God did.

In 2015, St. Ann’s pastor Msgr. Michael Osborn, many parishioners supported me and those special people of St. Ann’s who said yes to a holy hour,” Jakubowski said.

“My family and prayer partners supported me and those special people of St. Ann’s who said yes to a holy hour,” Jakubowski said.

“My family and prayer partners supported me and those special people of St. Ann’s who said yes to a holy hour,” Jakubowski said.

“In 2017, the Adoration team approached their new pastor Rev. Francis Marotti with the idea of having Perpetual Adoration during Advent. Fr. Marotti agreed, and the team secured enough adorers to make it work. In fact, it worked so well, Fr. Marotti agreed to have Perpetual Adoration during Lent, this time with an eye to making it permanent.”

“People had such an appetite for Adoration, they wanted it to grow,” Sinkovitz said.

In 2018, when Fr. Haro understood the need has increased since the government crackdown on undocumented immigrants. Many of these new detainees are Latino, a traditionally Catholic group. The jail houses about 580 prisoners, 200 of whom have immigration violations. They come from over 40 different countries, and many are unable to see their families. Twenty percent of the detainees are women, often separated from their children. These detainees may wait months before receiving a hearing. Many feel abandoned.

When Fr. Haro understood the need, he established a systematic, organized jail ministry, which serves all non-violent prisoners wishing for a spiritual encounter. The jail is divided into pods, of which our St. Joseph team visits eight. They provide a 10-15 minute prayer service with a lay team member reading the scripture and the priest or deacon giving a reflection. The service ends with Holy Communion. When both Fr. Haro and Fr. Chris Ankle are available, there are two teams, each visiting half the pods. Jail visits last about an hour and a half.

“The main purpose is to be a presence,” Fr. Haro said. “We have gotten so much feedback from the Catholic prisoners who say how much it means to have the psychological, emotional, and spiritual support of the extended Catholic family by just being there.”

The jail ministry volunteers have testified to the powerful impact their visits have had on the prisoners and, perhaps most significantly, on themselves. Jail rules forbid prolonged interaction with prisoners, limiting contact to a handshake and a few words, but each visitor has expressed similar experiences.

Rita Wahmhoff said, “We can pray for them in church or anywhere, but you have to go there to visit them.

“The reaction I have observed from those we serve has been all positive,” Mary Sue Avery said.

“It is mind-changing to see how much compassion Jesus has for His children and how they return and worship God even in those moments of trouble,” Monika Rosas said.

Fr. Haro hopes to increase the number of volunteers so each jail minister will be able to visit monthly rather than weekly. This important ministry demands a firm commitment.

“Mother Teresa once said, ‘We need the poor more than they need us,’” Fr. Haro said. “I would add we need the prisoners more than the prisoners need us.”
Región VI: Encuentro Regional – 2 al 3 de junio del 2018

Por Veronica Rodriguez

El fin de semana del 2 y el 3 de junio la Región VI, compuesta por los estados de Michigan y Ohio, tuvo su Encuentro Regional. Más de 250 personas participaron de 11 diócesis. De la Diócesis de Kalamazoo participaron 31 delegados. Fue un fin de semana muy intenso, lleno de trabajo y discernimiento. Los delegados se enfocaron en diez áreas ministeriales de las cuales salieron las áreas ministeriales y mejores prácticas para el nivel nacional. Las diez áreas ministeriales fueron: Evangelización y Misión, Desarrollo de Liderazgo y Vocaciones, Capacidades Interculturales, Pastoral con Adolescentes, Liturgia y Espiritualidad, Formación en la Fe y Catequesis, Pastoral de Jóvenes Adultos, Pastoral Familiar e Inmigración, Corresponsabilidad y Desarrollo y Ministerio Pastoral.

Este Encuentro Regional es parte de un proceso a nivel nacional iniciado por la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos. La meta principal del V Encuentro es discernir formas en las que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda responder mejor a la presencia de los hispanos/latinos y potenciar modos en que los hispanos/latinos respondan como discípulos misioneros al llamado de la Nueva Evangelización, sirviendo a toda la Iglesia.

El proceso comenzó al nivel parroquial, luego a nivel diocesano y ahora al nivel regional. Nuestra Diócesis comenzó el proceso a nivel parroquial en los meses de enero a septiembre del 2017 donde participaron más de 405 personas y se “primeraron” (dar el primer paso en la evangelización) a más de 600 personas. Nuestro Encuentro Diocesano fue el 4 de noviembre donde participaron más de 120 personas. Durante el proceso a nivel diocesano, los delegados discernieron ocho áreas ministeriales para dar prioridad en nuestra diócesis. Las áreas son: Jóvenes y Vocaciones, Familias, Formación, Evangelización, Ministerios, Espiritualidad, Social e Inmigración.

El próximo paso es preparar las delegaciones que van al Encuentro Nacional que será del 20 al 23 de septiembre del 2018 en Grapevine, Texas. Esta delegación llevará al Encuentro Nacional los resultados que se discernieron durante los Encuentros Regionales. De la Diócesis de Kalamazoo participarán cinco personas más el obispo como delegados.

Encuentro Regionales Nacionales Hispanos – Su Metodología, Un Valor Universal
Por Edgard R. Beitrán – uno de sus iniciadores

En junio de 1972 los Obispos Católicos de todos los Estados Unidos nos “encontramos” en un “Encuentro”, fue la primera vez en nuestra historia, como lo señalamos en nuestro pasado informe, el Primer Encuentro Nacional Hispánico de Pastoral. Pasó un milagro. En agosto de 1977 nos encontramos con más de 120 obispos, de una oportunidad para descubrir en el rostro de cada uno de los migrantes el rostro de Dios que nos pide algo más que cosas materiales, que nos demos a nosotros mismos a través de una palabra de acogida, de un gesto de cariño, de una mirada amable y de lo que cada uno de manera personal le puede aportar al migrante. Debe ser esta palabra la que nos impulsa a salir al encuentro del hermano migrante para recibirlo con lo que es y de recibirlo que el nos ofrece para nuestro crecimiento personal.

Calendario/Calendar

| JULIO |
| Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano |
| 21 y 22 | 8:30 a.m. Instituto San Agustín – Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Primer año de Formación. Retiro en Dewitt, MI.
| 21 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Retiro Diocesano para la Preparación de Quinceaneras. Deben asistir los papás y padres con la joven. Lugar: Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor, MI.

| AGOSTO |
| Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano |
| 4 y 5 | 8:30 a.m. Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría. Fin de semana diocesano para las parejas que se van a casar.
| 6 y 7 | 9:00 a.m. Retiro de Confirmaciones, obligatorio para los migrantes que se están preparando para la Confirmación.
| 16 y 17 | Campamento de verano para los jóvenes migrantes. En colaboración con la Universidad de Eastern Michigan.
| 19 | 1:00 p.m. Fiesta Diocesana para toda la Familia. Misa presidida por el Señor Obispo Paul Bradley. Lugar: Parroquia de Holy Angels, Sturgis.
| 25 | 6:00 p.m. Confirmaciones para los Migrantes que se han preparado para recibir este sagrado. Lugar: Catedral de San Agustín, Kalamazoo, M

Por Edgar R. Beitrán – uno de sus iniciadores

En junio de 1972 los Obispos Católicos de todos los Estados Unidos nos “encontramos” en un “Encuentro”, fue la primera vez en nuestra historia, como lo señalamos en nuestro pasado informe, el Primer Encuentro Nacional Hispánico de Pastoral. Pasó un milagro. En agosto de 1977 nos encontramos con más de 120 obispos, de una oportunidad para descubrir en el rostro de cada uno de los migrantes el rostro de Dios que nos pide algo más que cosas materiales, que nos demos a nosotros mismos a través de una palabra de acogida, de un gesto de cariño, de una mirada amable y de lo que cada uno de manera personal le puede aportar al migrante. Debe ser esta palabra la que nos impulsa a salir al encuentro del hermano migrante para recibirlo con lo que es y de recibirlo que el nos ofrece para nuestro crecimiento personal.

Recobrar una Iglesia en Comunión es recobrar una palpable comunidad, de que la Iglesia es universal – que abarca toda la diócesis y más allá de lo conocido. Ayuda a fortalecer nuestra fe y hacernos verdaderos misioneros en nuestro camino.

Próximo fin de semana:
Sábado y Domingo 5 de Agosto en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo
Horario: Sábado: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Domingo: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Para más información, presente en su parroquia o llame a la oficina Diocesana al 269-903-0199.
Sidewalk Advocate training offered

Sidewalk advocacy refers to crisis intervention in front of the abortion center. It involves actively encouraging a woman to choose life, empowering her to leave the abortion center, and ministering to all present to bring about a conversion of heart from a culture of death to a culture of life, thereby ending abortion. Traditionally known as “sidewalk counseling,” sidewalk advocacy is a re-branded term that emphasizes the peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding methods of this ministry with love as its centerpiece.

“Prayer provides the foundation for everything we do, for apart from God we can do nothing (cf. John 15:5),” notes Mary Jeske, local program director. “We encourage the local program to match prayer with lights. All proceeds from the run benefit The Ark Services for Youth, providing essential services to homeless youth and families in crisis across southwest Michigan.

Race participants of all ages are encouraged to dress in anything that glows in the dark or looks like a firefly. Prizes are awarded for best costumes. Additional highlights of the race include:

- Special team and family rates “Camp-themed” snacks after the run
- Music and family fun activities • Tours of The Ark Shelter • Race T-shirt included in your registration fees
- Free parking in front of the store on both side of Michigan Ave.

Visit www.ccdok.org to register today!
Holy Family Healthcare expands to offer women’s health services

By Sarah DeMott

Holy Family Healthcare has expanded its women’s health services to include a newly hired midwife.

Anna Nieboer, a board certified nurse-midwife, worked as a labor and delivery nurse before furthering her education. Her personal areas of interest within the scope of women’s health include fertility awareness, hormonal balance, nutrition counseling, alternative birthing choices, and lactation support.

“We realize health is holistic and we’re working to support the women of our communities physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually,” says Nieboer. “Women don’t tend to take care of themselves first. We want to form an easily accessible community of support encouraging mothers to take care of themselves too because if you take care of the mothers it does trickle down to the children, to the family and to the community.”

Currently, its Women’s Services can cover prenatal and postpartum care, including ultrasounds and newborn care up to 30 days after birth. Holy Family Healthcare is exploring opportunities to offer labor and delivery services in the future.

“Tobest servetheneedsofmothers in particular, Nieboer sees patients at the Caring Network (Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo facility). Kalamazoo, on Tuesdays, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, as well as by appointment at its Hartford location. She accepts various insurances and Medicaid as well as patients without insurance. As a certified nurse midwife, Nieboer is able to begin treating females starting with menarche. She can also serve as a woman’s primary care physician and can help with a wide range of health concerns, including routine exams, cancer screenings, menstrual concerns, mammograms and natural family planning services. She is a Fertility Education Medical Management (FEMM) health medical provider.

One program Nieboer feels fills a particular need — the need of community and support — is a support network of women’s groups. These groups will bring women together to learn a variety of topics from NFP to health living while also offering an opportunity to support other women. Future plans call for mother and child cooking classes.

Holy Family Healthcare is especially busy during the summer months as they kick their migrant farmworker family ministry into high gear. Its s-box ministry fills boxes with staple and shelf-stable food products to deliver to families through the Telamon Migrant Head Start program. Each box also includes a handmade welcome card and information on community resources. Donations of $15 will fill one box and are still needed. On alternate Thursdays, a team of a HFH employee and volunteers deliver water and Gatorade to the workers in the fields. The other Thursdays they visit camps to distribute food and clothing. Volunteers wanting to get involved should contact: For more information visit: www.holyfamilyhealthcare.org or contact Holy Family Healthcare, 269-621-0011.

Evangelizing youth, accompanying Hispanic families the focus at regional V Encuentro in Detroit

Priests, religious and lay leaders from 10 dioceses plus the Archdiocese of Detroit met at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit on June 2-3 for the Region VI of V Encuentro, a gathering of Church leaders to discuss how better to minister to the estimated 427,000 Hispanic Catholics in Michigan and Ohio.

Topics covered at the meeting varied from the need to evangelize Hispanic neighborhoods and encourage more vocations, to making parishes more inclusive and encouraging Hispanic participation, to ensuring the Catholic Church is a leading voice in speaking up for the rights of migrants and immigrants.

All topics encompassed two key priorities: evangelizing the youth and young adults, and the church accompanying Hispanic families in the United States who want to preserve their culture and their faith.

“Accompanying is about the invitation to go out to all men, women and children — if they are Christian or not, Catholic or not — and go out and walk with the people,” said Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit Arturo Cepeda, who serves as national co-chair of V Encuentro. “For Hispanic families, what they are looking for is a church that is alive, a church that is bringing people together and is celebrating together.”

The gathering was part of a four-year process initiated by the bishops of the United States, to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic and Latino presence, and to strengthen ways in which Hispanics and Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church. More than 250 delegates attended from the dioceses of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Saginaw, Toledo and Youngstown, building upon topics discussed at previous diocesan-level gatherings, including one held Dec. 9 in Detroit. Later, a selection of delegates will bring the results of this weekend’s discussions to the V National Encuentro Sept. 20-23 in Grapevine, Texas.

Delegates in Detroit focused on ways to better minister to Hispanic Catholics through the lens of 10 different ministerial areas: Evangelization and Mission, Leadership Development and Vocations, Intercultural Competencies, Youth Ministry, Liturgy and Spirituality, Faith Formation and Catechesis, Young Adult Ministry, Family Ministry and Immigration, Stewardship and Development, and Pro-Life Ministry.

“The question now is how do we keep this enthusiasm going, right now we have a spark,” said Veronica Rodriguez, director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Kalamazoo and co-chair for Region VI in the Encuentro “We need to go back to those families we first visited when the Encuentro process started and say, ‘This is what you told me, this is what we talked about, how far have we come?’ It is a back-and-forth conversation between the Church and the people, that is accompaniment, that is what we are called to do. To be intentional and specific about sharing the Gospel and motivating our youth and families to take a leading role in our Church.

Diocese of Kalamazoo Regional V Encuentro delegates.