World Mission Sunday

A Zambian woman poses for a photo holding produce cultivated on the Jesuit-run Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre. The center promotes organic, ecologically sustainable, no-till farming for small-scale farmers. (CNS photo courtesy Canadian Jesuits International)

Goldyweds renew vows during annual diocesan Mass with Bishop Bradley

Fifty years ago “I wanna Hold Your Hand” by the Beatles topped the charts. Last month, couples married during that same year, 1964, were still holding hands at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

More than 55 couples, some married more than 50 years, gathered in the Cathedral with family and friends for the annual diocesan Mass honoring their witness and commitment to the sacrament of marriage.

In his homily, Bishop Bradley congratulated the couples on their milestone and thanked them for their example of faithfulness. “We celebrate...the impact and witness you have been, and continue to be, to a world that desperately needs your example of what marriage is supposed to be: your faithfulness, fruitfulness and generous Christ-like love for each other.” Bishop Bradley continued to affirm the couples for their witness and shared words from Pope Francis who recently made international news headlines when he married 20 young couples at the Vatican.

(see related article page 6).

Bishop Bradley calls for renewed prayers for peace after historic Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Bishop Paul J. Bradley called for renewed prayers for peace upon his return from a historic nine-day Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, September 11 – 19, that included meetings with Muslim, Jewish and Christian religious leaders and Israeli and Palestinian civic officials.

“I am returning home very inspired by so many things that I have seen, by so many great, courageous and devoted people that I have met, and by the absolute conviction that I believe with all my heart what Jesus Himself taught us: ‘with God, all things are possible,’” he said. “Let us continue to pray for peace and justice for all people in the Holy Land.”

Bishop Bradley detailed the many complexities and highlights of the trip in a blog updated daily during his nine-day Peace Pilgrimage. [see www.catholickalamazoo.blogspot.com].

Upon returning the 18 participating bishops from the United States affirmed the power of prayer in a letter issued on September 22. “We went to the Holy Land as men of faith on a Prayer Pilgrimage for Peace. Motivated by the love of Christ and deep concern for both Israelis and Palestinians, we went to pray for peace, and to work for a two-state solution and an open and shared Jerusalem,” states the letter.

“Arriving in the wake of the recent Gaza war, though, we encountered pain, insensitivity and cynicism. Even the young people are discouraged. But we also saw signs of inspiration and hope.” The bishops believe in a peaceful resolution and look to the example of Pope Francis’ when they concluded: “Pope Francis, in word and gesture, inspired hope on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May. After another Gaza war, hope is now in short supply. One person on our journey told us that the Holy Land is the land of miracles. The miracle we need is the transformation of human hearts so each side is less deaf to the concerns of the other. In solidarity with our brother bishops and all people in the region, we urge alternatives to the cycle of hatred and violence. Peace is possible.”

Plans are currently underway for Bishop Bradley to present an overview of the nine-day Peace Pilgrimage at St. Augustine Cathedral Parish on October 28, 2014 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

See page 3 for Bishop Bradley’s further reflections on the trip and page 7 for additional photos.

COURAGE support program ministers to those with same-sex attraction

Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual attractions and seeking clarity and peace? Courage, an outreach of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attraction (SSA) and their loved ones and plans are currently underway to begin a Courage Chapter in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Begun in New York City in 1980 by the late Father John Harvey, Courage started as a spiritual support system to assist men and women with same-sex attraction in living chaste lives in fellowship, truth and love. Today, Courage has more than 100 chapters worldwide, 1,500 people participating in their LastServs, and hundreds of people per week receiving assistance from the main office and website, www.couragec.net.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo is working toward developing a Courage chapter through the leadership of Bishop Paul J. Bradley.

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cesna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

I couldn’t wait to open it!

Sharon always sent me the coolest gifts. She’s one of those treasured friends that carefully choses a gift that clearly illustrates she “gets me.” So every April (for my birthday) and every December (for Christmas) I anxiously rush to my mailbox for my new treasures.

One year, even though her Christmas gift arrived early, I placed it under our tree with the other presents and decided to wait to open it.

When Christmas morning rolled around, I tore off the pretty wrapping, opened the box, and quizzically surveyed the prettiest, shiniest silver whistle on a long chain and its cascading booklet, entitled “Falling Whistles.”

As I sat on my cozy living room floor amidst the gift wraps and bows, I read through the booklet with its hauntingly beautiful black and white photos and sobbed. The whistle symbolized those born by children in the Congo too small to carry guns. These children are sent to the frontlines and used as targets in a war we can’t possibly fathom. “Be a whistle-blower for Peace” was the slogan adopted by young missionaries who came back from their first-hand experience and wondered, “Why isn’t anyone doing anything about this? How can we help?”

[www.fallingwhistles.com]

As a Church we pack a lot of good stuff into October — the month of the rosary; Respect for Human Life month and “World Mission Sunday.” We celebrate each and every life, and we do so hoping that we’re broadening our own minds beyond our cozy living rooms to realize that those in need can be found all over the world. And we should care.

In a recent homily our Holy Father gifted us with more of his descriptive language which gently pushes us in the right direction. “How many Christians live off of appearances!” he said. “Their lives are like a soap bubble. A soap bubble is beautiful! It has so many colors! But it lasts one second and then what?”

I’m glad for a friend who didn’t give me a soap bubble but recognized that there’s more to being a Christian than just saying you are. And I’m proud of our edition this month which illustrates so beautifully the connectedness we need with each other from praying for peace in the Holy Land (cover story) to mourning nuns tragically killed in Burundi (page 9) to admiring a parish for its work in Haiti (page 12).

Isn’t that what respecting life is all about? Going outside our comfort zone and recognizing the face of Jesus Christ in everyone we see.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

Pope Francis OCTOBER Intentions

Peace, That the Lord may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence.

World Mission Day. That World Mission Day may remake in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.

COURAGE support program ministers — continued cover story

Fr. Ankley, who along with Fr. Ankley, who along with

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

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Email: thegoodnews@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

NOTICE: The November edition will be distributed in all parishes November 1 & 2.

www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Memoriam

Sister Regina Marie Cermak, CSJ
Sr. Regina Marie Cermak, CSJ, passed away last month. Mary Ann Cermak was born in Blissfield, Mich., the daughter of Paul and Mary (Sarnik) on April 9, 1930. She was a member of St. Alfred Parish in Taylor, Mich., at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on July 1, 1953. Sr. Regina Marie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from Nazareth College and a certificate in Religious Education from Providence College in Rhode Island. She taught in several schools in the Detroit area. In 2000 Sister Regina Marie returned to Nazareth where she ministered in pastoral care to the Sisters in Fontbonne Manor.

GAYLORD welcomes new shepherd Bishop Raica
By Chris Grosser
Special to the Diocese of Gaylord

GAYLORD — “We are one very large family here, a family of faith,” the Most Rev. Bishop Steven J. Raica acknowledged to the 1,200 seated inside his cathedral to the countless more using traditional and social media to witness his ordination and installation as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord Aug. 28.

Moments of laughter, applause and sentiment punctuated the ordination for which Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron was principal celebrant. Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Coadjutor Archbishop of Newark who had served as Gaylord’s fourth bishop, returned to his former cathedral, joining Bishop Emeritus Carl Merngell of Lansing as a Co-Consecrator. Raica’s mother, brother and cousins were seated in the front pew as the man born in Munising in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula pledged fidelity to the Church and its mission, and prostrated himself before those gathered to pray for him.

His ties to the Upper Peninsula (UP) served as reference points for both Raica and homolist, Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing. Both bishops made note of the work of 19th Century missionary, the Venerable Fr. Frederic Baraga, first bishop of Marquette, who evangelized in the UP and in parts of what is now the Gaylord Diocese.

Raica opened his remarks thanking God “for the great gift of life.” He expressed gratitude to Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigan, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, papal liason. “Your presence today reminds us of the closeness of Pope Francis to the Church of Gaylord,” said Raica. The crowd applauded when the new bishop asked Vigan “to convey to the Holy Father the love, affection and prayers of the faithful here in Gaylord as well as gratitude for his Petrine ministry and our steadfast communion with him.”

As he begins his episcopal ministry, Raica asked patience of the estimated 66,000 Catholics living within the 21-county Diocese.
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

All things are possible with God

As the crisp autumn air surrounds us during these beautiful days we begin to witness the changing of the seasons — from the brilliant hues of the leaves to the quiet beauty of an evening sunset. All around us are daily reminders of the gift of God’s creation. And while the calendar boasts of treasured fall traditions from apple picking to Friday night football games, in our Catholic faith we also remember October is the month set aside for special devotion to our Blessed Mother through praying of the rosary, as well as the month devoted to “Respect Life for Human Life.” This annual remembrance, first begun in 1972 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, calls attention to numerous human life issues and the way in which each touches on the sanctity and dignity of human life.

Having just returned from an eye-opening and life changing Peace Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 17 of my brother bishops, I am especially conscious of the importance of this year’s Respect Life theme; “Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation.”

This beautiful illustration is inspired by Pope Francis’ remarks during the 2013 Day for Life in which he said so eloquently, “even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

My dear sisters and brothers, perhaps no situation better illustrates this need to respect all life than the current tragic situation of civil unrest and religious persecution that is taking place in the holiest of lands—where the roots of Christianity were sown.

The nine-day trip was a time of prayer and of intense learning of the complexity of the situation. One of the disastrous facts that I learned is that in 1967 Christians made up nearly 20 percent of the population in Jerusalem; now, it’s down to 1.5 percent. Due to many factors, including religious persecution, Christians have been fleeing out of fear and for other reasons. If that decline continues the Holy Land will soon become a museum to Christian history. It will have lost the vitality and presence of the Catholic and Christian Church in that holiest part of the world.

As the theme for Respect Life month reminds us, “each of us in a masterpiece” and as treasures of God’s creation we are all entitled to a life of dignity and respect. And yet, atrocities are taking place to such horrific degrees, sins against humanity and absolute disrespect for the precious gift of human life no matter their race, creed or ethnic background.

Upon our return from the Holy Land Peace Pilgrimage the participating bishops issued a letter in the hopes of affirming our call to a peaceful and just solution — a call to respect life. Let me share with you an excerpt from our letter:

“Prayer was the central element of our pilgrimage. Through daily liturgies at holy sites and local parishes, we experienced our communion in Christ with local Christian communities. We are grateful to those at home who supported our pilgrimage with prayers and interest. We also prayed alongside Jews, Muslims and other Christians. Prayer is powerful. We know peace is possible because God is our hope.

“We met with people of goodwill, Palestinian and Israeli alike, who yearn for peace. We were inspired by the commitment of the staff and partners of Catholic Relief Services, The Pontifical Mission, and the local Christian community, who are providing relief to the people of Gaza; by the efforts of Christians, Muslims, and Jews who are building bridges of understanding; and by the mission of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. We were moved profoundly by our visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, and were encouraged by Bethlehem University, a Catholic institution that is building bridges between Christians and Muslims as they study together to create the future of Palestine, and by the Church’s schools that are open to all.

“We are compelled by the Gospel of Peace to share the fruits of our prayers and encounters with Israelis and Palestinians. Two peoples and three faiths have ancient ties to this Land. Sadly, Jerusalem, the City of Peace, is a sign of contradiction. We were told more than once that the city could erupt in violence as it has on far too many occasions.”

What can our response be? We must be united in prayer, making a daily appointment to grow closer in our relationship to Jesus as we obtain graces through the sacraments. Jesus consistently taught us the importance of prayer to Our Father, including prayers for those who persecute us. This is no easy command, especially in light of the current world conflicts as well as the daily examples of a lack of respect for life all around us, including abortion, domestic violence, capital punishment and euthanasia. However, we can never lose hope; we must continue to believe in the power of prayer, and of course, in miracles.

During this month of October, please pray the rosary for peace and justice in the Holy Land, for an end to violence in the Middle East and throughout the world, to protect our religious freedom here in our own country and for respect for all human life.

Continued on page 4
By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The wisdom of “It takes a village to raise a child” has been lost as kids are either overprotected by permissive parents or neglected, Pope Francis said.

“The educational partnership has been broken” as families, schools and society are “no longer united together for the child,” he said Sept. 4 after holding his first Google Hangout — a live video conversation — across five continents with teenagers who belong to the international network of “Scholas occurrentes,” uniting students of all faiths and cultures.

Parents and teachers used to stick together to teach kids important values, the pope said, recalling when he got into trouble in the fourth grade.

“I wasn’t respectful toward the teacher, and the teacher called my mother. My mother came, I stayed in class and the teacher stepped out, then they called me,” he told a group of educators and experts involved with the worldwide Scholas network.

“My mom was really calm. I feared the worst,” he said. After getting him to admit to his wrongdoing, his mother told him to apologize to the teacher.

The pope said he apologized and remembered “it was easy and I was happy. But there was an Act 2 when I got home,” insinuating stiffer punishment had followed.

However, today, “at least in lots of schools in my country,” if a teacher notes a problem with a student, “the next day, the mother and father denounce the teacher,” he said.

The family, schools and culture have to work together for the well-being of the child, he said. People have to “rebuild this village in order to educate a child.”

All of society also needs to help children and young people who are homeless, exploited, victims of violence or without any prospects, he said.

The pope pointed the blame on today’s “culture of disposal” and “the cult of money” for creating and perpetuating adults’ apathy or complicity in the mistreatment of kids.

This is why “it’s very important to strengthen bonds: social, family and personal ties” with kids and young adults, and create an environment that helps them approach the world with “trust and serenity.”

Otherwise, kids will be “left only with the path of delinquency and addiction,” he said.

The pope’s comments came at the end of an afternoon encounter to launch scholarships — a new social network for students from all over the world to cooperate on environmental and social causes, sport and art initiatives, and charitable activities.

The Scholas initiative was begun in Buenos Aires and supported by its then-Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio, who also used to teach high school when he was a young Jesuit priest.

When he became pope, he asked fellow Argentine Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, to expand the network’s reach and impact.

With a small digital camera and studio lights aimed at him in the gang-infested neighborhood of La Campanera, San Salvador, Sept. 4, the pope said all of society needs to help children and young people who are homeless, exploited, victims of violence or without any prospects. (CNS photo/Jose Cabezas, Reuters)

Greeting from Lodwar: Sister diocese updates

By Bishop Dominic Kimengich, Diocese of Lodwar

EDITOR’S NOTE: Mary Agnes McGrail sponsored Bishop Dominic from his days in the seminary, 1983, and remained a close friend until her passing this past July.

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Kalamazoo,

In recognition of Mary Agnes McGrail’s love for education, a member of her family proposed a construction of a classroom at Queen of Peace school for girls in Lodwar. He has already pledged to donate $10,000 towards the classroom. There is a discussion going on and it seems a library will be built instead of classroom since Mary Agnes loved reading and always encouraged the young people to embrace the culture of reading. This will be a wonderful addition to Queen of Peace which is a school committed to providing quality education, discipline and good Christian formation to young Turkana.

It is very encouraging to note that after the visit of Fr. John Peter Ambrose to Lodwar Diocese together with Bishop Paul Bradley and Msgr. Mike Huard (October 2013), he has mobilized his Christians to support needy students in Lodwar. Currently there are nine families who have adopted nine children in Lodwar and are paying one dollar a day to educate a child. St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet is helping a village in Lodwar get water.

Last year when Bishop Paul Bradley, Msgr. Mike Huard and Fr. John Peter Ambrose visited the Diocese of Lodwar, they had the opportunity to participate in a peace meeting between the Turkana and Pokot communities that have been fighting and stealing from each other for many years. There was a March for peace that culminated with the celebration of Holy Mass. I am happy to report that the hostilities have ended and people have the opportunity to participate in this committee please contact Vicki Cessna, Diocese of Kalamazoo, vcessna@dioceseofkalamaazoo.org. An initial meeting will be planned for mid-November.

Faithful Citizenship: Election Day is November 4th

As Catholics, it is our duty and responsibility to participate in the political process. In order to make moral choices, the Catholic Church calls on us to form our consciences before voting in accord with the principles of faith. This can be done by examining candidate positions through the lens of Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. The protection of human life must always be a primary concern, and we must also be sure to consider candidate positions on the wide spectrum of issues important to the Catholic Church such as marriage, education, health care, immigration, and poverty. To learn more about these issues and voting, check out the U.S. bishops’ document Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

For more information on important issues to consider when voting, Michigan Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan, has provided helpful material through its FOCUS publication at www.micatholic.org/advocacy/FOCUS-essay/.
Catholic Charities Caring Network adds new programs; celebrates 25th anniversary

“Only with prayer — prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and souls — will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.”

— Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Catholic Bishops

This month Catholic Charities’ Caring Network celebrates its 25th anniversary of offering pregnancy and parenting support to young mothers and women in need with the addition of two new programs: Real Alternatives and Prayer Partners.

Real Alternatives is a program specifically designed to reduce the number of abortions in Michigan, and is modeled after an evidence-based model used in both Pennsylvania and Texas. Caring Network staff and volunteers are able to provide expanded, intensive and compassionate services to pregnant and parenting mothers and fathers as well as offering pregnancy tests and specific services to those women whose tests are negative. We are thrilled to see the life-giving growth of the Caring Network program as we served more than 540 women in 2013 alone.

In addition Caring Network has started a new way to engage even more volunteers through it’s new Prayer Partners program. The agency is seeking volunteers to pray both for and with Caring Network clients as they face overwhelming challenges and obstacles. Volunteers can commit to as little as an hour a week.

To learn more, call Jeanne Boehm at 269-381-1234.

The Other Six Days By Jane Knuth
Learning from the Poor

“I want a Church that is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us... in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them.”

—Pope Francis, 24 November 2013.

St. Vincent de Paul is sometimes known as the patron saint of spiritual help. “Converting Catholics to Catholicism” was the pressing call for Vincent and his companions. He knew that his mission was to appease the spiritual hunger of the French country peasants of his day and to care for all the poor. His most repeated advice: “Let us seek out the poorest and most abandoned among us, and recognize before God that they are our lords and masters, and that we are unworthy of rendering our little services for them.”

St. Vincent and Pope Francis would have liked each other.

A new lesson from our master teachers at the thrift store concerns a young woman who was searching our racks for suitable slacks to wear to a job interview. She tried on several pairs in the dressing room before selecting one and taking it to the cash register.

“I’m a bit embarrassed to ask you this,” she said to our clerk. “These slacks cost three dollars but when I put my hands in the pockets I found a five dollar bill. Would it be OK with you if I paid for them with the money that was in them?”

What extreme kind of honesty is this? We never would have known where the five dollars came from if she hadn’t told us. She could have pocketed the cash and walked out the door, but instead she chose to show us the money and buy the pants with it.

No wonder that Pope Francis thinks I need to be evangelized by the poor. How true, as St. Vincent says, “that we are unworthy to render our little services for them.”

Pope Francis, St. Vincent, and every poor person we meet—best spiritual guides ever.

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Confessions heard every Friday: noon – 1:00
Reflections on the gift of the rosary

The rosary has endured as one of the most sacred Catholic traditions for centuries. In the late 1500s, Pope Pius V established the Feast of the Holy Rosary, now known as Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on October 7.

The five sets of 10 beads called decades make up the rosary are used to keep count of the prayers: 10 Hail Marys, preceded by one Our Father and followed by one Glory Be to the Father. However, praying the rosary is more than mindless recitation. The purpose of the rosary is to meditate on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries of the lives of Mary and Jesus Christ.

“The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints,” said Pope Francis, who reportedly recites 15 decades of the rosary every day. “It is a prayer from my heart.”

Here is how member of the Diocese of Kalamazoo make the rosary a part of their lives.

Charlie Young, President, Diocese of Kalamazoo

Q: When do you pray the rosary?
A: I tend to pray it in times of crisis, or when I really need something. I’d like to develop the devotion and habit to do so regularly.

Q: What are some traditional occasions people might pray the rosary?
A: I admire those who bring the whole family to mass 20 minutes early every Sunday so they can pray together. My wife’s grandmother spends time with the Blessed Mother every day with a rosary. She wouldn’t trade that for anything.

Q: Tell us about a particularly meaningful time you prayed the rosary?
A: My discernment. Discerning my vocation was a rather circuitous journey. It culminated in a wonderful five-day retreat to Rome with Ted Martin (before he was Father Ted Martin), and his father Craig. The last afternoon, with a lot of time to myself, I wandered around Piazza Navona with a rosary, visiting one beautiful old church after another, praying a decade of the rosary in each. You don’t have to wander very far in Rome to run out of decades and mysteries! After each decade, I asked God what vocation I intended for me, and to give me a sign either to nudge me into seminary or to help me meet whomever he had in mind. He introduced me to my wife through a loving conversation with the Mother of God.

Fr. German Diaz-Perez, Pastor, Holy Angels Parish, in Sturgis

Q: When are some times people might pray the rosary?
A: Always, day and night. Mary is our powerful intercessor before the Lord. As St. Louis de Montfort beautifully proclaims it, “To Jesus through Mary.”

Q: How often do you pray the rosary?
A: I pray the rosary daily. To pray the rosary has become to me a very special occasion. To converse with the Mother is always a very special occasion, isn’t it?

Q: What are some traditional occasions to pray the rosary?
A: I am a priest devoted to our heavenly Mother Mary. Her feasts in the liturgical calendar are occasions to celebrate and to rejoice with her for her role in her Son’s plan of salvation. When you love someone, that person is always in your heart and mind. If the rosary is a loving conversation with the Mother, then every moment that you say a Hail Mary becomes a meaningful moment in your life. To pray the rosary is to be with the Mother in God’s garden. Who doesn’t want to be with the Mother in God’s garden?

Q: Does your rosary have any special significance?
A: The rosary I use today is made of wood. It was giving to me by an old lady who asked me to pray for her. She has since died.

From Bishop Bradley:

I have prayed, and taken great comfort in, the rosary all my life. I carry a rosary with me always as a constant reminder of God’s abiding Presence with me, and I carry the rosary while in my Chapel, while I’m driving or traveling, as I’m falling asleep, or even on occasion during lengthy meetings. The constant prayer of the “Hail Mary” reminds us that each of us is invited, as Mary was, to say “Yes” to God every day; the reflection on the 20 mysteries of our salvation remind us how deeply we are loved. The Rosary is a powerful way to offer prayers of intercession, thanksgiving, petition and repentance, all in praise and thanks to our Loving God. Praying the rosary at least once a day will keep us close to God and mindful of His Presence with us always.

At wedding, pope says spouses make each other better men and women

By Francis X. Rocca, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Presiding over the wedding of 20 couples in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis celebrated marriage as the union of a man and woman playing complementary roles during their common journey through life.

“This is what marriage is all about: man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the woman has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man,” the pope said Sept. 14. “Here we see the reciprocity of differences.”

The pope spoke during a wedding Mass for couples from the diocese of Rome.

In typically frank style, Pope Francis admitted marriage life can be tiring, “burdensome, and often, even nauseating.”

But the pope assured the brides and grooms that Christ’s redemptive sacrifice would enable them to resist the “dangerous temptation of discouragement, infidelity, weakness, abandonment.”

“The love of Christ, which has blessed and sanctified the union of husband and wife, is able to sustain their love and to renew it when, humbly speaking, it becomes lost, wounded or worn out,” he said.

Pope Francis also offered practical advice for dealing with marital discord.

“It is normal for a husband and wife to argue,” he said. “It always happens. But my advice is this: never let the day end without having first made peace. Never. A small gesture is sufficient. Thus the journey may continue.”

Speaking three weeks before the start of an extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, the pope emphasized the importance of the institution based on marriage.

“It is impossible to quantify the strength and depth of humanity contained in a family: mutual help, educational support, relationships developing as family members mature, the sharing of joys and difficulties,” he said. “Families are the first place in which we are formed as persons and, at the same time, the bricks for the building up of society.”

The newlyweds ranged in age from 25 to 56 and represented a variety of situations, with some already having children or having lived together before marriage.

Cohabitation, though not a canonical impediment to marriage, violates the Catholic Church’s teaching on marriage and sexual love. Pastoral ministers helping Catholic couples prepare for the sacrament are urged to encourage them to regularize such situations prior to marrying.

St. Pope John Paul II Pilgrimage

Join Dcn. Jerry Ziemkiewicz’s Poland Pilgrimage

Sept. 28 - Oct. 6, 2015

A 7 Day pilgrimage – Walk in the footsteps of St. Pope John Paul II, stay in Kraków’s City Center near Medieval Market Sq., See the Black Madonna, Tour the legendary Wieliczka Salt Mine, Experience Auschwitz & Birkenau, Visit the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe...

Excursion Price: $3,485 (includes airfare budgeted at $1200 +/-) LIMITED TO 26 TRAVELERS.

For details contact: Chris Dougherty – Pilgrimage Coordinator 419-335-2322 or cdougherty@pinnaclepilgrimages.com www.pinnaclepilgrimages.com

Pictured above are newly married couples pray as Pope Francis celebrates marriage rite for 20 couples at Vatican. Newly married couples (L-R): Giorgio Bacci and Daniela Cascone, and Sandro Milioto and Ada Gallotta, join hands to pray the Lord's Prayer as Pope Francis celebrates the marriage rite for 20 couples during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Sept. 14. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)
**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, has shown himself to be a great teacher with the heart of a missionary. Like Jesus, he teaches by word and example, keeping the poor, the troubled and the vulnerable in clear view at all times. In that spirit I write to you today. Our Catholic Church, at every level and by its very nature, is missionary. Its origin is in the very mission of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit. It is in Christ alone that “salvation is offered to all people, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy” (see Ephesians 2:8; Romans 1:16).

In every nation, World Mission Sunday will be observed on the weekend of October 18-19. This essential observance is an experience in learning for us all. It is a time for us to be inspired by the heroes of our Church who serve God’s beloved children in places of poverty, injustice, even outright persecution. The priests, religious, and lay missionary groups make it possible for the most needy to encounter Christ, the Sacraments, and living Word of God, and thereby to live in hope of heaven.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the Holy Father’s chief missionary arm, providing resources for more than 1,150 mission dioceses the world over. No work of the Church is more central to her reason for being. Nothing is more important! So, I am asking that every parish and all the Faithful experience the fullness of World Mission Sunday. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith oversees the worldwide celebration of this most important day, representing and acting in the name of the Pope himself. In his address in advance of World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis summarizes well the direction on which we must stay: “The Church – I repeat again – is not a relief organization, an enterprise or an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us. It is the Holy Spirit that guides the Church in this path.”

The theme for the United States’ observance of this day is: “Do good on earth.” This is taken from the words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the young Carmelite Sister who is the Patroness of the Missions. It is a call to put faith into action! The materials prepared by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith highlight the missionary efforts of the Salesian Sisters in Chennai, India, and their pastoral work among young women and girls who are victims of trafficking and slavery. The Sisters save the girls’ lives, and with love they teach and celebrate the Faith. It is a most inspiring glimpse into missionary realities today.

At a time when the needs in the Missions have grown substantially, and the urgency of the cry of the poor is all the more pronounced, I ask you for the gift of your generosity. With the mutual efforts of our clergy and faithful, every parish in this local Church should embrace a true concern to do the very best for those most in need. Jesus commissioned His apostles and told them, “As the Father has sent me, so I have sent you” (John 20:21). That is the eternal challenge and privilege of all the Church’s servants and all the faithful. Let us pray that this year World Mission Sunday will touch each of us deeply, and that we will be united in providing true assistance where it is needed most, for the sake of Christ! I thank you in advance for your serious and generous response to the needs of others. In the end, the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church instruct us: “It is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize his chosen ones” (CCC, 2443).

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

For more about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit the special World Mission Sunday web site: www.IAmAMissionary.org.

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**Indiana and Michigan bishops stand in front of Israeli separation wall during pilgrimage to Holy Land**


**Above the bishops celebrate mass at the Mount of Beatitudes, praying for justice, peace and the poor. Shown from left are Bishop Bradley, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Bishop Melczek, Diocese of Gary; Bishop Pates, Diocese of Des Moines and Bishop Boland, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.**

Pictured left: Two altar servers assist during Mass with members of the Peace Pilgrimage at St. Justin’s Latin Church in Nablus. The Christian population in Nablus is small, but parish priest Fr. Johnny Abu Khalil calls it a “community of hope” and prays for a peaceful resolution to conflict.

Photos: Jen Hardy/CRS

Check out Bishop Bradley’s blog at: www.catholickalamazoo.blogspot.com

Shown right: St. Joseph Parish in Jifna near Ramallah, in the West Bank. The bishops spent time with Catholic Palestinians celebrating Mass. The pastor of St. Joseph is Fr. Firas Ari-daha (see below with two sisters). Bishop Bradley was the homilist for the Mass.
The Catholic Difference
The covenant of marriage
By George Weigel

My son Stephen and I spent an unusual, albeit unusually moving, Independence Day: we attended the golden wedding anniversary celebration of my friends Pietro and Teresa Malecki, which began with a Mass of thanksgiving in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Cracow’s Wawel Cathedral—the place where Pietro and Teresa had exchanged vows on July 4, 1964, kneeling before their old kayaking and hiking friends, the archbishop of Cracow (who, as Pope St. Paul II, was canonized some two months before the Maleckis’ jubilee).

Piotr Malecki, Karol Wojtyla’s altar boy at St. Florian’s parish and the self-described “enfant terrible” of that network of Wojtyla’s friends known as Srodowsko, is a distinguished physician. Teresa Malecka, who had to convince Wojtyla (whom she and others called Wujek, “Uncle”), that she was ready for marriage at age 20, is an accomplished musicologist and the former vice-dean of the Cracow Academy of Music. Outside the cathedral, the jubilarians were greeted by other Srodowsko veterans: Danuta Ciesielska, widow of Wojtyla’s closest lay friend and kayaking instructor, the Servant of God Jerzy Ciesielski, whose beatification cause is underway; Danuta Rybińska, who, as a plucky undergraduate in Stalinst Poland challenged the communists who were trying to expel the nuns from the convent-dormitory where she and others boarded. All of them shared a remarkable experience in their youth: as they were being formed into mature Christian adults by Wojtyla, they helped form an intellectually, athletically and mystically gifted young clergyman into one of the most dynamic priests of his generation, a pioneer in the pastoral strategy he called “accompaniment.”

As I said to Stephen afterwards, as we watched Wojtyla’s kids, no longer kids, shake hands, embrace, and offer flowers to Pietro and Teresa, “This is the beginning of World Youth Day, right here.” I could just as easily have added Love and Responsibility; the Theology of the Body; the 1981 apostolic exhortation, Familiaris Consortio; the 1988 apostolic letter on women, Mulieris Dignitatem; and the 1995 Letter to Families. For as I noted in a toast at the anniversary dinner the Maleckis’ sons arranged, the network of now-not-so-young friends that had gathered around Karol Wojtyła—men and women who resolutely refuse to think of themselves as something special—had in fact helped bend the history of the Church, and the world, in a more humane direction.

One other facet of this happy celebration struck me with particular force. As on their wedding day when Pietro and Teresa first exchanged vows, now, on their golden jubilee, the priest celebrating the thanksgiving Mass wound the end of a stole around their joined hands, its other end remaining around his neck, as the couple renewed their pledge of fidelity.

What that gesture says is that, in the biblical and Christian view, the couple “getting married” are engaging in a priestly act, an act of right worship: they are sealing, not a mere contract, but a covenant in which the ordained priest, exercises his unique form of priesthood by offering the Church’s recognition of, and blessing on, what the couple, in their exercise of the priesthood of the baptized, have covenanted together. That stole, touching both priest and couple, embodies the classic Catholic teaching that the couple who bind themselves for life are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony. When marriage is reduced to a contract for mutual economic advantage among any configuration of consenting adults, something essential in what Christians understand to be “marriage” is lost: something “deep-down-diving,” to borrow from the playwright Ibsen. And that, I suspect, is why state marriage licenses that no longer specify “Bride” and “Groom” but rather “Spouse 1” and “Spouse 2” seem somehow bizarre. And dangerous.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Father Robert Barron’s new video series, “Priest, Prophet, King” is released

This six part lecture presentation, produced by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, comes with full study guides

“The better we understand Jesus, the better we understand ourselves,” Father Robert Barron says about the release of his new film and study program, “Priest, Prophet, King.” The renowned priest wants to help viewers discover Jesus as the Anointed One and to embody His way of life. Using biblical insights and engaging stories, Fr. Barron shows how priests, prophets, and kings were foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, and then how Jesus fulfills each role in the New Testament.

Fr. Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and the Rector/President of Mundelein Seminary. An acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian, he is perhaps best known for creating and hosting the award winning “Catholicism” film series, an epic ten-part documentary on the Church’s history and teachings of the Catholic Church seen by millions throughout the world.

“The prophets of the false Gods are everywhere today,” said Fr. Barron, “They tell our kids all the time that the path to happiness is wealth, pleasure, power and honor. But we must boldly challenge these false gods and reveal the strange, startling truth that Jesus Crucified is the true vision of happiness and freedom.”

Through this presentation of “Priest, Prophet, King,” Fr. Barron wants viewers to better understand Jesus, become more familiar with Scripture, and realize their own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission.

This deeply biblical program, filmed in high-definition video by Spirit Juice Studios, features an accompanying study guide by notable Catholic writer and apologist, Carl Olson, written under Father Barron’s direction.

The six lessons in the “Priest, Prophet, King” study program are:
1. Adoratio: Adam as Priest
2. The High Priest
3. Challenging False Worship: Elijah the Prophet
4. The Word Made Flesh
5. Ordering the Kingdom: King David
6. King of Kings

For more information on “Priest, Prophet, King” go to: http://priestprophetking.com/

Father Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, a global, non-profit media group and Rector of Mundelein Seminary/University of Saint Mary of the Lake near Chicago.

Word on Fire Catholic Ministries (http://www.WordonFire.org), Father Barron’s media evangelization ministry reaches millions of people through its films, study programs, and online work.

Archbishop Sheen’s sainthood cause suspended indefinitely

By Catholic News Service WASHINGTON (CNS) — The canonization cause of Archbishop Fulton Sheen has been suspended indefinitely, according to a statement issued Sept. 3 by the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, where the archbishop was born.

The suspension was announced “with immense sadness,” the diocese said. “The process to verify a possible miracle attributed to Sheen had been going extremely well, and only awaited a vote of the cardinals and the approval of the Holy Father. There was every indication that a possible date for beatification in Peoria would have been scheduled for as early as the coming year.”

Archbishop Sheen, who gained fame in the 1950s with a prime-time television series called Life Is Worth Living, died in New York in 1979. The diocesan statement said the Archdiocese of New York de- nied a request from Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, president of the Archbishop Sheen Foundation, to move the archbishop’s body to Peoria.

A Sept. 4 statement from Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the New York Archdiocese, said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York “did express a hesitation in exhuming the body” and that “he had "expressly stated his desire that his remains be buried in New York.”

Zwilling said Cardinal Dolan “does object to the dismem- berment of the archbishop’s body,” but, were it to be exhumed, relics that might have been buried with Archbishop Sheen might be “rev- erently collected” and “shared gener- ously” with the Peoria Diocese.

In an interview published Sept. 6 by Crux, the Boston Globe’s Catholic news website, Cardinal Dolan said, “We’ve had some issues (with Peoria) over what to do with the remains of Archbishop Sheen and what relics we might be able to share, and I’m committed to doing whatever we can that’s consistent with Sheen’s own wishes, the wishes of his fam- ily; the instructions we get from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and New York state law.”

If the Peoria Diocese’s decision is final to suspend Archbishop Sheen’s cause and to assign it to the Vatican congregation’s histori- cal archives, Zwilling said, “the Archdiocese of New York would welcome the opportunity to as- sume responsibility for the cause in an attempt to move it forward.”

“After further discussion with Rome, it was decided that the Sheen Cause would now have to be relegated to the congregation’s historic archive,” the Sept. 3 Peo- ria diocesan statement said.

For more information visit: Diocese of Peoria: www.cdp.org; www.archbishopsheencause.org
A group of students active in Campus Ministry at Saint Mary’s College are rising to meet a challenge facing the Catholic Church: a significant drop in young women practicing the faith. Students at this Catholic, women’s college are organizing a letter-writing response to Pope Francis’ outreach to youth called “Voices of Young Catholic Women.” They’re inviting Catholic women of the Millennial Generation (born between 1981-1995) to write the pope about their love for the Catholic tradition and ideas for how the Church might better reach their demographic.

Those who take part are instructed to send letters, prayers, poetry, art, and other forms of creative expression to the Center for Spirituality (CFS) at Saint Mary’s. President Carol Ann Mooney will hand deliver the correspondence when she and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, have a general audience with Pope Francis on November 26.

CFS sent invitations to campus ministry offices and Newman Centers/Clubs at colleges and universities across the country encouraging college women to take part in the project. A full-page ad also appeared in the September 1 issue of America, a prominent national Catholic magazine.

“The Voices of Young Catholic Women project has allowed me to see my academic studies come to life. As a religious studies major and a gender and women’s studies minor, this experience is giving me a tangible expression where I am able to see the intersection of religion and gender,” said Saint Mary’s College student Tori Wilbraham, 15.

Pope Francis has called on Catholic youth to contribute to the Church’s life and mission. “The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity, and the joy that is so characteristic of you,” he said at World Youth Day 2013. His call to action comes at a time when an estimated 35 percent of Millennial women who were baptized Catholic no longer practice their faith. (Source: General Social Survey.)

“At a time when many have left the Church, letters that give expression to the beauty, truth, and goodness that young women do find in Catholicism can make an important contribution to the New Evangelization,” noted Elizabeth Gropp, director of the Center for Spirituality.

“Letters may also generate ideas about ways in which the Church could strengthen its support for young women amidst the many challenges they face in their baptismal holiness and human dignity, including epidemic levels of sexual violence and a media culture that degrades women. The intent of this project is constructive and helpful,” Gropp added.

The project asks for examples of how women can be more involved in the Church and conveys the message that young women are very vital and important part of the Church’s life. The students in this initiative are supported by the College’s Division for Mission, including the Center for Spirituality and Campus Ministry. During the development of this project, the division was headed by Sister Veronique Wieedorfer, CSC, then vice president for Mission at the College. This month Sister Veronique was installed president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the congregation that founded Saint Mary’s 170 years ago. (VoicesofYoungCatholicWomen.)

For more information contact Lisa Irwin at 269-903-0177 or lirwin@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Saint Mary’s Notre Dame students invite young Catholic Women to write Pope Francis

By Carol Glatz,
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis mourned the deaths of three Xaverian Missionary Sisters of Mary, who were murdered in two separate attacks in their residence in Burundi.

Sister Lucia Pulici, 75, and Sister Olga Raschietti, 82, were found dead Sept. 7 in their mission residence in the capital of Bujumbura, Sister Bernadetta Bogianni, 79, who had found the bodies, was killed the next night.

In telegrams sent to Archbishop Evariste Nyagoye of Bujumbura and Sister Ines Frizza, superior general of the Xaverian Missionary Sister of Mary, the pope expressed his sadness concerning the “tragic deaths” of these “faithful and devout nuns.”

The messages, sent on behalf of the pope by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said the pope hoped that “the blood they have shed may become the seed of hope to build true fraternity between peoples.”

Xaverian Missionary Father Mario Pulcini, superior of the Xaverian Missionaries in Burundi, told MISNA, the missionary news service, that he had gone to the mission house Sept. 7 after he and Sister Bogianni had been unable to reach Sisters Pulici and Raschietti by telephone all of that day.

“I was in front of the main door with the idea of forcing it open when it opened and I saw Bernadetta there very upset. She had found a side service entrance open and, once she entered, found the lifeless bodies of Sisters Olga and Lucia,” he said.

They alerted government, military, judicial and religious authorities, the priest said, and an investigation was begun.

Despite the murders, the sisters decided to spend the night in their home. However, they phoned Father Pulcini during the night of Sept. 8, afraid that “the aggressor was in the home.” When the priest arrived, he found Sister Bogianni had been killed, too.

There was no word yet on possible suspects or motives of the killings.

The three missionary sisters had been working in Burundi, helping the poor and the sick, the past seven years, Vatican Radio reported. (CNS photo/courtesy Xaverian Missionaries)

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Shop early for unique holiday gifts. Entrance is free and open to the public. The church is located at 1150 W. Centre Street, Portage, Michigan.

St. Catherine’s of Siena, Portage, Marian Hall Saturday, Nov. 15 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
All profits go to Marketplace vendors to support their continued good work helping workers of the world to be fairly compensated for the goods and services they produce.

For more information, contact Ed Bachleda. E-mail: eddieb928@gmail.com Phone: (269) 327-1159.

Sacred Music at the Cathedral
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Pope mourns murder of three missionary sisters in Burundi
Por Verónica Rodríguez

“Los niños aprenden a farse del amor de sus padres. Por eso, es importante que los padres cultiven prácticas comunes de fe en la familia, que acompañen el crecimiento en la fe de los hijos” (Papa Francisco, Encíclica Lumen Fidei).

Actividad para hacer en familia este mes de octubre: El mes de octubre es el mes del rosario. El Santo Papa Juan Pablo II en su carta apostólica “Rosarium Virginis Mariæ (Rosario de la Virgen María)” dice que el Rosario “forjó en el tiempo y de la mejor y más reconocida tradición de la contemplación cristiana. La Iglesia ha visto siempre en esta oración una particular eficacia, confiando las causas más difíciles a su recitación comunitaria y a su práctica constante. En momentos en los que la cristianidad misma estaba amenazada, se atribuyó a la fuerza de esta oración la liberación del peligro y la Virgen del Rosario fue considerada como protectora de la salvación… El Rosario simboliza también, desde siempre, una oración de la familia y por la familia… Conviene no descuidar esta preciosa herencia.” (Rosarium Virginis Mariæ, #5, 39, 40).

El Papa Francisco en su audiencia general del año pasado dijo, “Rezando el Ave María, somos conducidos a contemplar los misterios de Jesús, es decir a reflexionar sobre los momentos centrales de su vida, para que, como para María y para san José, Él sea el centro de nuestros pensamientos, de nuestras decisiones y de nuestras acciones… Para escuchar al Señor, es necesario aprender a contemplarlo, a percibir su presencia constante en nuestra vida; es necesario detenerse a dialogar con Él, darle espacio con la oración…sentir que la amistad y el amor de Dios nos acompañan…” (Audencia General, 2013).

Sígase enseñando a nuestros hijos este modo de dialogar con Jesús. A veces con el corazón del Señor nos olvida dialogar con Jesús lo hacemos de carrera y muchos instantes olvidándonos de explicarles a nuestros hijos lo que estamos haciendo. Aquí es donde nuestros hijos a veces no entienden el porqué de la tradición y utilizan ciertos símbolos para María y para san José, Él sea el centro de nuestros pensamientos, de nuestras decisiones y de nuestras acciones… Para escuchar al Señor, es necesario aprender a contemplarlo, a percibir su presencia constante en nuestra vida; es necesario detenerse a dialogar con Él, darle espacio con la oración…sentir que la amistad y el amor de Dios nos acompañan…” (Audencia General, 2013).

En este mes de octubre tomemos unos minutos para explicarle a nuestros hijos el poder de la oración por la familia y las personas y para reforzar el valor por toda vida humana ya sean bebés, niños, ancianos, inmigrantes, jóvenes, niños por nacer, los encarcelados. Toda vida merece respeto. Que la Virgen María interceda por nosotros para María y para san José, Él sea el centro de nuestros pensamientos, de nuestras decisiones y de nuestras acciones… Para escuchar al Señor, es necesario aprender a contemplarlo, a percibir su presencia constante en nuestra vida; es necesario detenerse a dialogar con Él, darle espacio con la oración…sentir que la amistad y el amor de Dios nos acompañan…” (Audencia General, 2013).

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Siempre es tiempo para acompañar a la Virgen María en su día. Se sugiere vestirse con vestidos típicos de sus país de origen y llevar rosas para ofrecer a la Virgen María y compartir con otras personas. Después de la Misa habrá una recepción para todos.

Bilingual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Presiding Bishop Paul J. Bradley: As in past years, the Most Rev. Paul Bradley will preside the bilingual Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year it will take place on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. We hope you can reserve some time to accompany the Virgin Mary on her day. It is suggested to dress in traditional clothing of different countries of origin. It is also suggested for families to bring roses to offer the Virgin Mary. There will be a reception after Mass.

Gracias Voluntarios de Migrant Ministry

Agradecemos profundamente a todos los voluntarios que directamente e indirectamente ayudaron en el ministerio con los campesinos migrantes. Nos invitamos a una cena de agradecimiento el jueves 23 de octubre del 2014 a las 6:30 p.m. en el auditorio del Lawrence Education Center, 1521 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Para reservar su lugar se requiere hacer cita previa con Lissette Mira-Amaya, Counselor al (269) 929-7084.
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

St. Catherine of Siena Parish will host Fair Trade Marketplace, Nov. 15

St. Catherine of Siena’s parish hall will be transformed into an international marketplace from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, for the 11th annual fair trade marketplace. This annual event more than 600 people attended the 2013 Marketplace, and with 20 vendors including Equal Exchange coffees, teas, chocolates and snacks, hand-knitted sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves; children’s toys and books; handmade jewelry, soaps, note cards and paper, and much more.

More than 600 people attended the 2013 Marketplace, and with their buying power they made a positive difference in our world,” said Ed Bachleda, co-founder and JustFaith graduate. “Marketplace is a fair trade, non-profit endeavor of St. Catherine’s Justice Mission. All profits go to the Marketplace vendors to support their continued good work helping workers of the world to be fairly compensated for the goods and services they produce.”

For more information, contact Ed Bachleda via e-mail at eddie928@gmail.com or phone (269) 327-1159.

Dioscyan Confirmation Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 3 p.m.

Bishop Bradley will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation for Catholics (adults or adolescents) who have yet to receive the Sacrament on Sunday, November 16th at 3pm in St. Augustine Cathedral. In order to be eligible candidates must be properly disposed, been given appropriate catechetical preparation through their parish and have the written approval of their pastor.

Information forms and proof of baptism must be sent into the Office of Worship by October 15 at the latest in order for a candidate to participate.

For information about the Liturgy or eligibility contact David Reilly at the Office of Worship at 269-903-0193 or dreilly@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Pope helps launch worldwide social network — Continued story pg. 4

The pope urged the young people to build bridges through open and respectful communication, in which they listen carefully to others and exchange experiences, ideas and values.

Sina, a teenage boy in Istanbul, thanked the pope for letting more than schools and students come together, “but also our beliefs and hearts.” He then asked the pope if he thought the future was going to get better or worse. “I don’t have a crystal ball like witches do to see the future,” the pope answered, adding that what the future will be like is in the hands of today’s “young people.”

The future “is in your heart, it’s in your mind and your hands,” and if people cultivate constructive thoughts and feeling do good things, “the future will be better.”

He said young people need two things: They need wings to fly and the courage to dream of big things, and they need strong roots and respect for their culture, their heritage and all the wisdom passed down from their elders.

“The world today need three key foundations: education, sports and culture, that’s why Scholas unités everything,” he said.

He urged the teens to speak out against war and injustice, and to stick together like a team, defending each other against “gangs” and other negative influences that may seek to destroy and isolate people.

His last piece of advice, he said, came from Jesus, who often said, “Be not afraid.”

“Don’t lose your nerve. Don’t be afraid. Keep going. Build bridges of peace. Play as a team and build a better future because, remember, that the future is in your hands.”

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 477-0201. 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 all other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or other negative behavior against children and adults. If you have some other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate diocesan school, parish or office directly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective services.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
4242 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048

A Woman’s Path to Wholeness

7 Tuesdays starting Oct. 21
Karen Honeffer-Ginder, Ph.D.
This 3-part series explores how we come to expect too much of ourselves. Learn how we can embrace all of who we are.

Faith & Art
Wise & Holy
Women with Brother Mickey McGrath
Saturday, Oct. 25
Using his own paintings and stories, Brother Mickey will offer an inspiring and insightful look at several creative, wise women who span the generations of the church.

The Veil of God

La Led Laura Smith, CSJ
Saturday, Nov. 1
Our day will focus on the experience of God in our lives reflecting upon The Veil of God that surrounds us: the Cosmos, all of Creation, the message of Jesus and the human longing for love.

Hopeful, Graceful Living in a Noisy Busy World

Saturday, Nov. 8
Tom Beech
Discover the deep reservoir within that helps us engage from a place of grace, hope, respect and kindness.

Here & There

OCTOBER


Oct. 9 – 12: Into the Wild is an authentically masculine outdoor experiential retreat weekend for men. It will be held for the first time in the Diocese of Kalamazoo at Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation near Kalamazoo. Contact Deacon Kurt Lucas at kkucas@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Oct. 20-Dec. 15: Trauma Recovery Program for English-speakers, October 20-December 15 (nine consecutive Mondays and Saturday, Dec. 6), morning group meets 9:30 to noon at St. Augustine, evening group meets 7:00 to 9:30 at St. Catherine of Siena. This is a free program for adult Catholics who are survivors of childhood trauma. Meeting is facilitated by mental health professionals and a priest, to learn skills to live happier and more effective lives. Contact Sharon Froom (269-381-8917, ext. 222) for information and registration.

October 17: Gaudium Christi Young Adult Eucharistic Adoration at St. Augustine Cathedral (442 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007) will meet on Friday October 17th, and November 21st at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to adore our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, have the opportunity to go to Confession. For more information, please find ‘Gaudium Christi Kalamazoo’ on Facebook.

Oct 18: Diocesan Pre-Marriage En- counter, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., One day diocesan retreat for engaged couples and married couples who wish to have a day of reflection. St. John Parish, St. John the Baptist Church, (conducted in Spanish).

October 18: Sacred Heart Altar Society Annual Fall Bazaar, Watson, Silent Auction and Craft Sale 10 am-2 pm. All-You-Can-Eat Lunch from 11 am-2 pm. 13 years and older-$5.00.

Parishioners’ helping hands extend to Haiti

Organization looks to expand sister parish program

“When I first saw the rectory it reminded me of a little chicken coop,” says Larry Dennany, a St. Margaret, Otsego, parishioner about his first trip to his sister parish in Haiti, St. Francis de Sales.

Fast forward 14 years later from his first visit and the impoverished Haiti parish has been able to build a new rectory, hospital and a school that has grown to 450 students thanks to the commitment of generous parish communities.

“As Catholics were called to minister to the poorest of the poor,” adds Joy Livingston, Director of Religious Education, St. Margaret Parish, Otsego who has lead youth groups to Haiti during annual Spring Break time. “Our mission trips and connection to St. Francis de Sales have opened a lot of hearts.”

Dennany has been so profoundly moved by his experiences in Haiti that he sits on the board of Haiti Twining Coordinators of Michigan (HTCOM) which helps facilitate a sister parish relationship between Catholic churches, schools, orphanages and hospitals in Haiti with Catholic churches and schools in the United States.

The group, which is part of Parish Twining Programs of the Americas, was founded so it could share its collective wisdom and help other parishes in Michigan form effective sister relationships.

Dennany notes that communication and accountability are among the most challenging areas when establishing a sister parish relationship and HTCOM comes alongside a parish to help in those areas. The organization is run by volunteers and does not charge for its services. “100 percent of all money raised [by a parish] will go directly to a parish,” adds Dennany.

In addition to St. Margaret’s, St. Therese, Wayland and St. Mary Visitation Parish, Byron Center have begun to establish sister parish relationships. Building those relationships can include sending a delegation to Haiti and to also host visitors from the sister parish here.

“We do the legwork,” explains Dennany. Some parishes may opt to take up regular collections while others may have sponsoring a student-type programs. HTCOM helps navigate all the logistics. [The sister parish relationship] expands our vision of Church,” says Dennany.

For more information on how your parish can become involved contact:
Larry Dennany: 269-532-4541; larry.dennany@yahoo.com

Your Health Today

Flu 101

What is the flu?
Influenza (the flu) is a contagious illness caused by viruses that affect the nose, throat and lungs. A serious case of the flu can lead to hospitalization or even death. Older people, young children and people with chronic health conditions, are at higher risk for developing serious flu complications.

What are the signs of the flu?

People who have the flu often feel some or all of these signs and symptoms:

• Fever or feeling feverish/chills (although not everyone who has the flu will have a fever)
• Cough
• Sore throat
• Runny or stuffy nose
• Muscle or body aches
• Headaches
• Fatigue (feeling very tired)
• Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, but this is more common in children than adults

How does the flu spread?
The flu is most often spread by droplets made when people who have the illness cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can then land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby.

How can you stay healthy?
The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year. A flu shot cannot cause the flu. The viruses contained in a flu shot are inactivated (killed), which means they cannot cause infection. Each year’s vaccine will protect against the flu viruses that Centers for Disease Control (CDC) researchers believe will be most common during that particular season. There are several different flu vaccine options available, so talk to your health care provider about which option would work best for you.

These tips can also help you stay healthy during the flu season:

• Sing “happy birthday” a lot. Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (about the time it takes to sing “happy birthday”) reduces the spread of germs.
• Practice sneezing and coughing etiquette. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or shirtsleeve when sneezing or coughing.
• You are what you eat. Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet rich in vitamins A, C and E. Foods that can boost your immune system include milk, eggs, citrus fruits, vegetables and nuts.
• Get your z’s. Without proper sleep, you increase your odds of getting sick. Adults need at least seven hours of sleep per night (children need more).
• Kick the smoking habit. Smoking kills the fibers in your nose and lungs that help prevent mucus from clogging these airways.

For more on preventing the flu or common cold, call Dr. Carrie Sandborn, Borgess Family Internal Medicine, at (269) 343.7296. You can also learn more about the safety and effectiveness of the flu shot at flushot.borgess.com.