Kalamazoo religious sisters announce celebrations to mark 125 years in the area

Hospitals, educational facilities and countless ministries (such as the orphanage shown above) are just a few examples of the lasting legacy begun 125 years ago when 11 sisters came to Kalamazoo at the invitation of Msgr. Francis O’Brien.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, now members of the Congregation of St. Joseph, will mark its historic 125 years in Kalamazoo with special celebrations planned this summer and in the fall. On Sunday, July 6th, the Sisters will host “Founder’s Day” beginning with a 1 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving. Guided tours of Holy Family Chapel and the History Room featuring memorabilia and historical artifacts from the past century will be given until 4:30 p.m. Additional information on the celebration contact: 269-381-6290, ext. 267.

All former students, faculty and staff of the former Nazareth College, Nazareth Academy, Barbour Hall, St. Camillus/Borgess School of Nursing and St. Joseph/Flint School of Nursing are invited to participate in “Spirit Days” on Friday, September 26th and Saturday, September 27th on the Nazareth campus, 3427 Gull Road, Nazareth (Kalamazoo), Mich. The days are hosted by the Nazareth Association and more information can be found at www.nazarethassociation.org.

For more photos and a feature on the history of the sisters in Kalamazoo, see page 7.

Seminarians are hitting the road again

Diocesan seminarians kick-off third annual walking pilgrimage

The diocesan seminarians will embark on their third annual diocesan pilgrimage this month covering territory in the Southwest and Southeast deaneries. The one-week pilgrimage will begin with Mass with Bishop Bradley at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, June 14th. The seminarians then will embark on their journey beginning with a visit to Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsberg. The theme will once again be To the Heart of the Diocese through the Heart of Christ.

“Christ lives in the Eucharist and in the people, so we are making this diocesan pilgrimage, visiting the people in their churches, really to Christ,” said Rev. Chris Derda, Director of Vocations and Ongoing Priestly Formation.

This is the third year for the seminarian pilgrimage which has been previously held in the Central and Lakeshore deaneries. Each day the seminarians walk from parish to parish and enjoy fraternity with each other as well as fellowship with many parishioners throughout the diocese.

“The seminarians got to know each other and learn how to cooperate together on a major project,” said Fr. Derda. “Learning to collaborate will only help them when they become priests, God willing.”

Visiting the parishes in the diocese also had the benefit of raising vocation awareness planting the seeds for further vocations.

“The pilgrimage gives people a chance to meet our diocesan seminarians as a group at many of our parishes. Many people have never seen a group of seminarians before. It gives them hope for the future of the Church,” said Fr. Derda. “God is giving us vocations, but we are just not aware of it.”

Check the diocesan website for detailed schedule.
www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org
I’ll never forget that moment. It’s a memory emblazoned in my mind, taking place with all my other life moments — First Communion, first day of college, first apartment.

Of course I’m referring to my first-time eating at the “grown-ups” table. It was a particularly festive Easter as we welcomed rarely-seen out-of-town relatives and then all crammed into our family’s dining room. I was giddy about my new status in the world as I left behind the kids table with its plastic ware and finger foods and happily graduated to the mysterious grown-up world of nicer place settings and fancier vegetables. I was thinking about this momentous time in my life as I reflected on the very first Pentecost, which we celebrate on June 8th, and on all the young people receiving the sacrament of confirmation this spring. In some ways, just as the apostles waited around anxiously in the Upper Room, young people wanting to be anointed with the sacred chrisom oil have in fact “graduated from the kids table,” though they may not realize it.

It certainly didn’t end in the Upper Room for the Apostles as they received the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and went on to transform the world.

And it shouldn’t end with our young confirmands. They too, are given those same gifts, and now have the opportunity to move their child-like faith to an adult one as they enter a world that needs their faithful influence.

Earlier this year during one of his weekly audiences, Pope Francis, continuing a catechism on the sacraments, said about confirmation: “The word ‘Confirmation’ then reminds us that this Sacrament brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it unites us more firmly to Christ, it renders our bond with the Church more perfect, and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith, … to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of his Cross.”

I’ll forever be grateful to the wise parish staff member who sent my son a letter of congratulations after his confirmation and welcomed him to consider what ministry he might be involved in at the parish. Here he may do great things. For me, I will forever be grateful to the wise parish staff member who sent my son a letter of congratulations after his confirmation and welcomed him to consider what ministry he might be involved in at the parish. Here he may do great things.

The mission of The Good News is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to provide them with the tools they need to be effective witnesses of the Christian roots through the witness of believers.

Sr. Jane Beecher died last month and a funeral Mass was held at Nazareth. Jane Beecher was born in Owosso, Mich., on January 16, 1932, the daughter of Arthur and Winifred (Kohnbluch) Beecher. Jane was a member of St. Isidore Parish in Lansing at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on January 2, 1950. Sr. Jane earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Nazareth College and a Master of Education degree in Theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati. She completed requirements for the Advanced Program in Spiritual Direction and became a certiﬁed spiritual director. Sister Jane began ministry as a teacher in several Catholic schools throughout Michigan, namely, Immaculata Conception, Three Rivers; St. Dennis, Royal Oak; and Luke Powers High School, Flint. After spending twenty-two years as a teacher, she was elected to the SSJ Administrative team for four years and then served for twelve years as a member of the Nazareth House team. Sister Jane was elected to serve for two terms as Vice-President of the Governing Board for the SSJ Federation.

Sr. Corinne Feldpausch, CSJ, died last month. Mass and services were held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sister was born Rita Feldpausch in Fowler, Mich., on November 4, 1917, the daughter of Joseph and Regina (Wieber) Feldpausch. She was a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Fowler at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on February 2, 1941. Rita received the name Sr. Corinne at her reception on August 26, 1941. She pronounced first vows on August 26, 1943 and final vows on August 26, 1946. Sister Corinne earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Nazareth College.

For fourteen years she taught in several schools of the Congregation, including: St. Rita in Detroit, St. Mary in Flint, Madonna in Detroit and St. Agnes in Flint. She was then assigned as a Business Manager at St. Joseph Hospital in Flint and Lee Memorial Hospital in Owosaga. Sister Corinne was certified as a Social Worker and moved to the Scudiere Center in inner-city Detroit where she ministered to the very poor and destitute. Sister Corinne then accepted the position of Administrator at Marian-Oakland Senior Citizen Complex in Farmington Hills. From 1985-1993 she served at the Borgess Medical Center in the Public Relations Department and as a receptionist in the Outpatient Department. Sister Corinne retired in 1993, but continued her work at the Nazareth Switchboard and as a sacristan in St. Joseph Chapel, Fontbonne Manor.
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

A Spirit – filled Birthday!

On these picture-perfect “summer-like” spring days, we rejoice in the celebration of one of the three most important Feasts of the Church Year, and the only one not to have become commercialized in any way. We don’t find a “Happy Pentecost” section in the Hallmark Card store; we don’t see too many ads for “Pentecost” special sales at Meijer’s or any other major department stores. Yet, Pentecost, this year on June 8th, is a major Feast — a “solemnity” in the Liturgical Calendar. It’s the 50th, and final, day of the Easter season and the last day for the Paschal (Easter) Candle to burn brightly during Mass. We sometimes refer to Pentecost as “the birthday of the Church” because we truly do celebrate the birth, or beginning, of the Church’s mission, launched in dramatic fashion by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles in the Upper Room.

Pentecost is the day when all of us as baptized and confirmed Catholics need to remind ourselves what an integral and essential role the Holy Spirit plays within each of our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit first came into our lives on the day of our baptism. And then, having completed our initiation into the Church on the day we received the Sacrament of Confirmation, we were anointed with sacred chrism as the confirming bishop sealed us with the “Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

While the Incarnation, or the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas, is so essential to our faith, and while the Resurrection, or the glorious Solemnity of Easter, is the central mystery of our faith, all the pages of the Gospels lead up to the Pentecost event — the coming of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Jesus Himself talked about that many times, and kept telling the Apostles that after He was “glorified” (which is a scriptural code word for His Crucifixion, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension), then He could send the Holy Spirit. Who would, “remind them of everything that I have taught you,” and Who would stay with them always.

Yes, it’s really too bad that we don’t have “Happy Pentecost” cards that we can send to one another, or perhaps to be more current, “Happy Pentecost” texts, tweets or Instagrams as we wish one another happiness and joy, because Pentecost is the day to celebrate the great gift of the Holy Spirit Who leads the Church and makes His dwelling within each of us as baptized/confirmed Catholics. We become “temples of the Holy Spirit.”

One of the greatest joys I have as a bishop is to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation to both youth and adults alike during the many parish-based celebrations, as well as the Diocesan celebrations held periodically at St. Augustine Cathedral. These are such spirit-filled, joyful celebrations and I’m always so impressed by the earnestness of the Confirmation candidates and the support of their families. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and the special “gifts” He brings to us: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, courage, piety and wonder, as well as the “fruits”: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

These gifts and fruits are the essential tools we need to use if we are to embrace the true meaning of the “new evangelization” we are called to enter into so that we can spread the joy of the Gospel.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis clearly calls us to experience the joy with which we are filled with the Holy Spirit and to share it in Christ’s love to all those we meet.

He reminds us that as Christians we need to be joyful in our evangelizing as he writes, “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!” We must not, he says, “look like sourpusses”. We must be Christians, “who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet.”

This great Solemnity of Pentecost Feast reminds us that all of us — baptized and confirmed Catholics — share in that “mission” given by Jesus and initiated by the Holy Spirit. It’s not a mission that is just reserved for the pope, the bishops and the priests. It’s a mission for all of us.

In other words, each and every one of us is a unique and special person, with special gifts and talents. When we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our choices and the decisions in our daily lives, we will truly be participating in the new evangelization, and we will be contributing to the building up of the entire Body of Christ.

As we begin to look forward to a season of some rest and relaxation in the coming summer months, let us give thanks for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are to help us live in the Father’s unconditional love for us; let us renew our commitment to be faithful members of the Church as we give witness to our faith in Christ by the ways we live, in our joys and sorrows, successes and failures, following always the example of the Risen Jesus.

Continued on page 4

LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

¡Un cumpleaños lleno del Espíritu Santo!

En estos días pintorescos de primavera parecidos al verano, nos regocijamos en la celebración de una de las tres fiestas más importantes del año litúrgico, y la única que no se ha comercializado en ninguna forma. No encontramos una seción de “Feliz día de Pentecostés” en la tienda de tarjetas Hallmark; no vemos mucha publicidad de ventas especiales de “Pentecostés” en Meijer o cualquier otra tienda grande. Sin embargo, Pentecostés, este año el 8 de junio, es una fiesta mayor — una “solemidad” en el Calendario Litúrgico. Es el 50º y último día de la temporada Pascual y el último día para que el cirio pascual brille durante la misa. A veces nos referimos a Pentecostés como “el cumpleaños de la Iglesia” porque realmente celebramos el nacimiento, o comienzo, de la misión de la Iglesia, puesta en marcha de forma dramática por la efusión del Espíritu Santo sobre los Apóstoles en el Cenáculo.

Pentecostés es el día en que todos nosotros como bautizados y confirmados católicos debemos recordar que papel integral y esencial juega el Espíritu Santo dentro de cada una de nuestras vidas espirituales. El Espíritu Santo vino por primera vez a nuestras vidas el día de nuestro bautismo. Y luego, después de haber completado nuestra iniciación en la Iglesia el día en que recibimos el Sacramento de la Confirmación, fuimos ungidos con el sagrado crisma cuando el obispo que nos Confirmó nos selló con el “don del Espíritu Santo.”

Aunque la Encarnación, o el nacimiento de Jesucristo en Navidad, es tan esencial para nuestra fe, y la Resurrección, o la gloriosa solemnidad de la Pascua, es el misterio central de nuestra fe, todas las páginas de los Evangelios conducen al acontecimiento de Pentecostés — el venida del Espíritu Santo. De hecho, Jesús mismo habló sobre eso muchas veces, y le decía a los apóstoles que después de Él fuera “glorificado” (que es una palabra en clave bíblica para su crucifixión, sepultura, resurrección y ascensión), entonces Él podría enviar el Espíritu Santo, quien les, “recordaría todo lo que yo les he enseñado”, y quien se quedaría con ellos siempre.

Sí, es realmente una lástima que no tengamos tarjetas de “Feliz Pentecostés” que nos podamos enviar, o tal vez para ser más actual, mensajes de textos, de twitter o Instagrams al igual que como nos desearmos unas a otras felicidad y alegría, de “Feliz Pentecostés”, porque Pentecostés es el día para celebrar el gran don del Espíritu Santo quien guía a la Iglesia y hace su morada dentro de cada uno de nosotros como católicos bautizados / confirmados. Nos convertimos en “templos del Espíritu Santo.”

Una de las alegrías más grandes que tengo como obispo es el Santiago que se celebra el Sacramento de la Confirmación a los jóvenes y adultos por igual durante las muchas celebraciones parroquiales, así como las celebraciones diocesanas celebradas periódicamente en la Catedral de San Agustín. Estas son, celebraciones tan alegres y llenas del espíritu y siempre están impregnado por la seriedad de los candidatos a la Confirmación y el apoyo de sus familias. A través del sacramento de la Confirmación, estamos llenos del Espíritu Santo y los “dones” especiales que Él nos trae: ciencia, consejo, fortaleza, inteligencia, piedad, sabiduría, temor, así como los “frutos”: caridad, gozo, paz, paciencia, longanimidad, bondad, benignidad, mansedumbre, fe, modestia, continencia, castidad.

Estos dones y frutos son las herramientas esenciales que necesitamos usar si queremos abrazar el verdadero significado de la “nueva evangelización” que estamos llamados a entrar de modo que podamos difundir la alegría del Evangelio.

En su Exhortación Apostólica, La alegría del Evangelio, el Papa Francisco nos llama claramente a experimentar la alegría con la que estamos llenos el Espíritu Santo y la compartimos en el amor de Cristo a todos con los que nos encontremos.

Él nos recuerda que, como cristianos, tenemos que estar alegres en nuestra evangelización como él escribe, “Un evangelizador nunca debe parecerse a alguien que acaba de regresar de un funeral!” No debemos, dice, “vernos amargados. Debemos ser cristianos, que deseamos compartir su alegría, que apuntan a un horizonte de belleza y que invitan a los demás a un delicioso banquete.”

Esta gran Solemnidad de la Fiesta de Pentecostés nos recuerda que todos nosotros — católicos bautizados y confirmados — compartimos “la misión” dada por Jesús e iniciada por el Espíritu Santo. No es una misión que está sólo reservada al Papa, a los obispos y a los sacerdotes. Es una misión para todos nosotros.

En otras palabras, todos y cada uno de nosotros somos una persona única y especial, con dones y talentos especiales. Cuando elegimos permitir que el Espíritu Santo guíe nuestras elecciones y las decisiones en nuestra vida diaria, realmente estamos participando en la nueva evangelización, y estaremos contribuyendo a la edificación de todo el Cuerpo de Cristo.

A medida que empezamos a mirar hacia una temporada de descanso y relajación en los próximos meses de verano, demos gracias por los dones y frutos del Espíritu Santo, que son para ayudarnos a vivir en el amor incondicional del Padre por nosotros; renovemos nuestro compromiso de ser miembros fieles de la Iglesia al dar testimonio de nuestra fe en Cristo.
Borgess Medical Center receives Governor’s Award of Excellence

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: Borgess Medical Center is a recipient of the MPRO’s 2014 Governor’s Award of Excellence for outstanding inpatient clinical quality achievement in the acute care hospital setting. To achieve this honor, Borgess improved the quality and efficiency of the health care delivery system in four clinical topic areas: acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care. Borgess also was cited for improvement and efficiency in eight patient experience areas of care measures: nurse communication, doctor communication, hospital staff responsiveness, pain management, medicine communication, hospital cleanliness and quietness, discharge information, and overall hospital rating. In addition, acute care hospitals were required to meet additional overall criteria, including the submission of a process improvement plan.

“We are pleased to receive this recognition of achievement,” said Paul A. Spaudle, president & CEO, Borgess Health. “The Governor’s Award of Excellence underscores Borgess’ continuing strong commitment to providing high-quality, safe and efficient health care. It also highlights our guiding principle of connecting with people at different levels to foster an environment for better healing.”

This year, 188 Michigan hospitals, physician practices, nursing homes and community coalitions were honored with the Governor’s Award of Excellence, which recognizes participants for their dedication to improve health care quality and patient safety. To be eligible for the award, participating organizations must have achieved, maintained and continually improved in specific and rigorous milestones.

The Governor’s Award of Excellence was developed in 2003. The current award is based upon work from 2012-2014 in the following areas:

• Reducing health care associated infections
• Reducing health care acquired conditions in nursing homes
• Reducing adverse drug events
• Integrating care for populations and communities through improving care transitions and coordination
• Improving preventive care and early diagnosis through immunizations and screening
• Improving clinical quality measures associated with improving cardiac health
• Improving clinical quality measures among acute care and critical access hospitals
• reducing disparities of care in cardiac health

Group’s self-described “ordination” calls for clarity on Church teaching

An organization calling itself “Roman Catholic Womenpriests” was reported to be holding what they were calling an “ordination” of a woman in Three Oaks, Michigan. In response to the event Bishop Bradley issued a statement to the Catholic community to offer clarification. In his letter to the faithful, he wrote:

“With great sadness I share with you the serious news that a woman in our diocese is attempting to participate in the celebration of the sacrament of priestly ordination as part of an organization known as “Roman Catholic Womenpriests.” This organization has no juridic standing (i.e., is not recognized) within the universal or the local Catholic Church. Please be aware that such an action does not confer the sacred character of the priesthood for this woman; in fact, this action will further separate her from the Church in a very grave manner. It also has the potential to cause great confusion for our faithful.

“If this invalid ‘ordination’ takes place then the woman attempting ordination incurs an automatic excommunication. Any Catholic attending or participating in this, or any invalid and illicit attempt at the sacrament of ordination, places themselves outside of full communion with the Catholic Church.

“As Catholics we hold sacred the gifts of the sacraments and cannot participate or collaborate when they are gravely misused. Please keep all those involved in this serious matter in your prayers.”

Following are some frequently asked questions in regards to the topic:

What are the essential elements of Church teaching on “Women’s Ordination”? The most essential point to understand in this discussion is that all the Christian faithful — bishops, priests, religious and lay — share an equal dignity in the Church because all are called to the perfection of holiness.

Holy Family Radio expands local coverage into Battle Creek

Deacon Louis Zemlick tackles topics of faith in new weekly program

Holy Family Radio, based in Grand Rapids, Mich., has expanded its coverage in the Diocese of Kalamazoo with the purchase of a new station, WSPB 89.7 FM. The station went live at air on 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 24th.

“It was a tense situation right down to the last minute whether the deadline would be met,” said Cheryl Doyle, president. “However station manager, Robert Mulderink, with the help of a multitude of angels and many prayers, worked countless hours to complete this station by the mid-May deadline. But thanks be to God, Robert, Dave Spoelhof, the amazing team from the Great Lakes Tower & Antenna Company and several others, it was completed on time.”

This new station has the potential to reach a population of more than 333,000 people and will fill some of the gap between Holy Family Radio’s 1140 AM Kentwood/Grand Rapids station and the 91.5 FM Vicksburg/Kalamazoo station, noted Doyle.

In addition to expanded coverage Holy Family Radio is also developing and airing custom local programming in addition to the EWTN programs it airs.

Bishop Bradley was the featured guest on the premier edition of “Epiphany” a new local radio program produced by Holy Family Radio featuring host Deacon Louis Zemlick, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan. “Epiphany” airs Wednesdays at 2 p.m. with a rebroadcast Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

For more on the program visit: www.holyfamilyradio.net.

Peter’s Pence collection set for June 28/29

The annual Peter’s Pence collection will take place the weekend of June 28/29th. Through our contributions, we are united with the Holy Father and become a witness of charity throughout the world. Gifts to this annual collection help the Holy Father support the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others most in need of essential relief. Please be generous. Visit www.vatican.va, and search for “Peter’s Pence” for more information about the Peter’s Pence Collection and the work it makes possible.

On Easter Sunday 2013, Pope Francis encouraged each person to be a witness of charity. He said, “Let us be renewed by God’s mercy... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation, and make justice and peace flourish.” Pope Francis has continued to remind us through his actions that we must serve our brothers and sisters in order to be true disciples of Christ.
Homeschool group nabs third place in FilmFest

The JMJ homeschool group took third place in the Second annual Bishop Baraga FilmFest. Last month the winners were announced at the “Oscar Night.” The theme for this year was based on 1 Tim. 3:15 “the church is the pillar and foundation of truth.” The video had to be three to five minutes long and contain a set of keys (Jesus gave the keys of the kingdom/church to Peter) at least one scene. The competition was open to any high school youth group or organization in the Diocese of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo had three entries including students from Battle Creek and St. Joseph, St. Joseph.

“Our video was based on the importance of the search for truth but in today’s world high school kids have a lot of things that can distract them in the search for truth,” said Steve Goeffney, who assists with the JMJ homeschool group. “I am very proud of the video we produced as it sticks to the theme but also is an upbeat, happy & light-hearted video. Happy, upbeat and joy-filled, that is what we are called to be in the world today.”

The video was recorded, produced and edited by Maria Kavanaugh, Ryan Cain, Joseph Goffeney, Kate Kavanaugh and Clare Kavanaugh. The main characters were Abby Shultz, Genevieve Brockway, Sean Morgan and Peter Gifford. The narrator was Gabe Rapelje.

The video may be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ysK3RupSpu

Fortnight for Freedom begins June 21st

The Bishops of the United States have issued a call to all the faithful to participate in the Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Serve, which will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2014. The fortnight is a fourteen day period of prayer, education and action for the protection of religious freedom in the United States and abroad.

“By using the term Fortnight, the Bishops urge us to freely contribute to the common good of all Americans. Religious liberty is the foundation of each and every human life. Religious liberty is celebrated in thanksgiving for the gift of religious freedom and our faith. All Catholics are invited to join Bishop Bradley and other Bishops of the United States in prayer, education and action for the protection of this most basic human right.”

Parishes are invited to send representatives, and all the faithful of the diocese are invited to celebrate Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral. Observances:

Sunday, June 29th – Bishop Bradley will celebrate Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral. Parishes are invited to send representatives, and all the faithful of the diocese are invited to join Bishop Bradley in thanksgiving for the gift of religious freedom and our duty to defend and preserve it.

Friday, July 4th – Closing Mass celebrated by Msgr. Thomas Martin at 9:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral.

There are many resources available at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org, including fact sheets that describe the many areas in which our religious freedom is being curtailed, prayers and a 14-day reflection guide.

The Diocese will sponsor the following Fortnight observances:

• Monday, June 23rd – (1) Bishop Bradley will celebrate Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Margaret School. The $20 registration fee includes refreshments and a t-shirt, and free massages given by a local sponsor. Awards will be given in four categories as well as additional door prizes for participants turning in pledges of $50 and $100.

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St. Margaret’s St. Vincent de Paul chapter hosts fun walk/run on June 21st

St. Vincent de Paul chapter of St. Margaret Parish, Otsego is hosting its 2nd Annual “Feeding the Flock 5K Walk/Run” on Saturday, June 21st. The event will begin with registration at 7 a.m. and the race will commence at 8 a.m. with the starting line at St. Margaret School. The $20 registration fee includes participation in the run, a t-shirt and free massages given by a local sponsor. Awards will be given in four categories as well as additional door prizes for participants turning in pledges of $50 and $100.

Please contact Bob Benson at (269) 350-0038 for more information on envelopes and registration forms. All proceeds benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Otsego, which helps feed more than 100 families each month.

LITURGY DIRECTOR NEEDED

Located on the beautiful campus of St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana

Sisters of the Holy Cross seek an experienced, full-time Liturgy Director. Candidate is responsible for planning and coordinating liturgical and communal prayer for congregation events as well as with a diverse assembly at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. Candidate must have pastoral music skills, including a proficiency in choral direction and keyboard accompaniment. Other requirements include computer literacy, administrative ability to work with a team, supervise others, and maintain a flexible work schedule. Requirements include: Roman Catholic, Master’s degree in Liturgy or equivalent experience with pastoral liturgy. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefit package, including health, dental, vacation, sick time, and a retirement plan.

Please send resume to: Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., 100 Lourdes Hall-Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, IN 46556, Attention: Human Resources Director or e-mail to jszekendi@cscsisters.org.
Seventeen art students along with our Fine Arts teacher, Gail Suess-Brandow are creating icons under the guidance of professional iconographer, Jeanette Aleo. Funded through grants from the Calhoun County Arts Council and the BCACS Foundation, Ms. Suess-Brandow shared that she is excited to involve the students in the “Windows to History” project. St. Luke is the creator of iconography, which is considered writing a prayer to God. Art student, Anna Lehouiller, Class of 2016, expressed, “I am really enjoying this process of writing an icon, It has taught me a lot of things; how to be more patient, steady-handed and I believe brought me closer to God with the prayers I am saying through this process.” Ms. Suess-Brandow agrees, “In my opinion, icon writing is one of the best ways to praise God. I’ve been thrilled watching the students learn to love writing their prayers, too.” Father John Fleckenstein blessed the icons on Friday, April 25th.
Sisters Celebrate 125 years in Kalamazoo


Led by Mother Margaret Mary Lacy, the Sisters arrived with few personal possessions and a profound commitment to a philosophy of caring and giving that remains unchanged today, 125 years later.

Prior to the creation of the hospital people who were homeless and ill were sometimes placed in the local jail for care because there were no other options. Msgr. O’Brien was unheeded. Bishop first appealed to the city aldermen for a hospital, but the request was unheeded. Bishop Borgess of Detroit provided $5,000 from his mother’s estate to begin this new enterprise.

A $5,000 donation from Bishop Borgess helped transform a mansion on Portage St. into a 20-bed hospital that soon bear his name.

Before they could offer nursing care, the Sisters set to work, scrubbing and cleaning, moving furniture and getting rooms ready for the December 8, 1889, official opening of Kalamazoo’s first hospital.

The Sisters made up in zeal what they lacked in experience, according to an unpublished manuscript by Dr. Robert Warnke. They cleaned and painted, prepared meals, did laundry and sat up nights with patients when needed — everything but stoke coal in the furnace.

They raised a garden and managed cows and chickens to supplement the food supply, and over time the hospital grew to 20 beds. In 1917 a new Borgess was opened on Gull Road at the present location. The old hospital was closed and with large expansion at the Gull Road site all services were consolidated as 250-bed health ministry.

The zeal exhibited by the sisters spread through the community and within a month of their arrival several young girls entered the congregation. Their parents prepared them and groomed them for this new vocation, said Sister Irene Waldmann. "The Sisters were looked upon as the kind people who got things done for the community."

Their community spirit can be traced back to the founding of the Congregation of the Sisters of Joseph in LePuy, France, by the Rev. Jean Pierre Medaille and Bishop Henry de Maupas. By the late 1600’s the Sisters were engaged in Christian Ministry in dioceses in France, in schools, hospitals, orphanages and institutes for the deaf.

The local congregation traces in origins to Watertown, N.Y., where Mother Margaret Lacy established a foundation. Nine years later Mother Margaret and the Watertown Sisters arrived in Kalamazoo. The Sisters had not been in Kalamazoo for long before some were called to Monroe, Mich., to assume the responsibility for the St. Francis Home for Orphan Boys.

Four days after arriving, 80 orphaned boys were brought to the home. In 1891, back in Kalamazoo, Msgr. O’Brien asked the sisters to take charge of the LeFevre Institute, a parochial school established in 1851. When the need arose for safe, reasonably priced housing for women who worked in factories and shops, the sisters converted a cottage on hospital grounds from a novitiate to St. Ann Home for Working Women. In 1897 the large brick building on the former Humphrey Farm on Gull Road was converted to the site for the Motherhouse and a new school for girls, Nazareth Academy.

In 1902, Barbour Hall for Boys was opened. In 1924 Nazareth College was established and it offered a four-year liberal arts curriculum. The sisters also helped in the St. Anthony Home, the first residence by Catholic Sisters in the United States to serve mentally disadvantaged children.

In 2007, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Nazareth joined with six other groups of Sisters of St. Joseph to form the Congregation of St. Joseph. Today, with nearly 600 Sisters and 500 non-vowed associates, the Congregation serves thousands of neighbors each year through its network of sponsored and individual ministries and partnerships in the communities.

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"Our philosophy remains the same as it always has," said Sister Irene. "Father Medaille, our founder, called us to care for the dear neighbor.”

The legacy of caring carried forth by the first 11 sisters who came to Kalamazoo, continues today. “The sisters have a long history of looking for what is needed in the community and providing for that need,” said Sister Judy Schroeder. “We still look for those needs and increasingly partner with others in the community to meet them — for us it is a way to continue neighboring anew.”
Grieving the childhood you never had — a goal of trauma recovery

By Sharon Froom

When children are hurt or neglected by the people who are supposed to protect and nurture them, they suffer incredible losses, not just in childhood, but throughout their lives. Among the losses from childhood trauma are trust of self and others, ability to concentrate, ability to regulate emotions, judgment regarding personal safety, motivation for physical self-care and skills to forge healthy satisfying relationships.

If you experienced trauma as a child and continue to suffer as a result, the Trauma Recovery Program offers you help and hope for recovery. In the Trauma Recovery Program you can learn why your injuries from a hurtful childhood are so profound, how your efforts to avoid difficult feelings may be hurting you, what thinking you use that keeps you stuck in your hurtful past, and how you can grieve the losses of a childhood you never had.

The Trauma Recovery Program is offered free to any adult Catholic who struggles with issues due to a traumatic childhood. In private small group settings, facilitated by mental health professionals you will learn the skills you need to live a healthy more satisfying life.

Annual gathering of Catholic women leaders from across the country takes place September 24-27 in Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids will be the site of the National Council of Catholic Women’s 2014 National Convention. Held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, September 24-27, the convention is the annual gathering of women leaders from more than 4,000 affiliated Catholic women’s organizations in parishes and dioceses and individual members throughout the United States.

More than five hundred Catholic women — representing hundreds of thousands of Catholic women nationwide — will gather from across the country for leadership development, spiritual renewal and fellowship.

Established in 1920 by the United States Bishops, the National Council of Catholic Women acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

Dr. Ralph Martin and Teresa Tomeo are keynote speakers at the 2014 convention, whose theme is “Be the Voice of Catholic Women: Catholic Women United in Truth.”

Dr. Martin is a nationally known speaker and author, and is the president of Renewal Ministries. In addition, he is the Director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization, Associate Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and Consultant to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. Dr. Martin holds a doctorate in theology from the Angelicum University in Rome and is the author of numerous books. He will speak about “Catholic Women and the New Evangelization: Why Bother” on Thursday, September 25th, at 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Teresa Tomeo is an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with more than 30 years of experience in TV and radio. Tomeo co-hosts the popular EWTN television series, “The Catholic View for Women” and her daily morning radio program, “Catholic Connection,” is heard on over 200 Catholic stations nationwide through the EWTN Global Radio Network and is also carried on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio. Tomeo has been featured on The O’Reilly Factor, Fox News, Fox & Friends, MSNBC, and the Dr. Laura Show, discussing issues of faith, media awareness, and Catholic Church teaching, especially as it relates to the culture. She will speak about “Families and the Media: Helping Families Navigate Today’s Cultural Challenges” on Thursday, September 25th, from 2:45 – 4 p.m.

Other speakers in the action-packed schedule include motivational speaker and humorist Sheri Wohlert; award-winning reporter and columnist for the Phoenix Catholic Sun; Jane Knuth, author of Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time; and Vicki Thom, the founder of Project Rachel and the executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing.


Throughout the weekend there will be many additional opportunities for worship and prayer.

All Catholic women interested in spiritual enrichment, leadership development, and service to the Church and society are invited to register and attend the convention. Full registration information is online at www.nccw.org.

The NCCW 2014 Convention is being held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, a full-service luxury hotel conveniently located in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids’ business and entertainment district. Located at 1187 Monroe Avenue North West Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, the hotel is easily accessible and just a brief 18-minute drive from Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

Groups are forming for fall, 2014. For information and registration call Sharon Froom at 269-381-8917, ext. 222.

Choose a morning group (9:30-noon) or an evening group (7:00 to 9:30).

Monday, October 20
Monday, October 27
Monday, November 3
Monday, November 10
Monday, November 17
Monday, November 24
Monday, December 1
Saturday, December 6
Monday, December 8
Monday, December 15

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

The Catholic Difference

The difference Easter made

By George Weigel

One of the striking things about the Easter and post-Easter narratives in the New Testament is that they are largely about in-comprehension: which is to say that, in the canonical Gospels, the early Church admitted that it took some time for the first Christian believers to understand what had happened in the Resurrection, and how what had happened changed everything. In Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches (Basic Books), I draw on insights from Anglican biblical scholar N.T. Wright and Pope Benedict XVI to explore the first Christians’ unfolding comprehension of Easter and how it exploded their ideas of history and their place in history.

So, what changed after Easter?

The disciples’ understanding of history changed. The first Jesus community lived in expectation of the “last days,” even while Jesus walked among them in his public ministry; but they thought the “last days” involved a history-ending cataclysm. After the Resurrection, the disciples slowly began to grasp that the “last days” had already begun at Easter, even as history continued. The “last days” were unfolding in time, and the entire texture of time was changed because of that.

The disciples’ understanding of “resurrection” changed. The Risen Christ’s resurrection was not like the resuscitation of Lazarus, nor did it involve the decomposition of the corpse of the Jesus who was crucified, who died, and who was buried. The Risen Lord had a body, but it is a transformed body, and the tomb was empty.

The disciples’ understanding of their responsibilities and their future prospects changed. The unexpected and expectation-exploiting Resurrection of Jesus also revealed their own destinies. The life-transforming experience of meeting the Risen Lord impelled the first disciples to mission, after the outpouring of the Spirit had given them the words to tell what they had seen and heard. And knowing that what had happened in Jesus’ Resurrection was their destiny, too, they could, in the future, embrace martyrdom in witness to the truth of what God had done in Christ for the salvation of the world.

The disciples’ understanding of worship and time changed. The disciples of Jesus were all pious Jews for whom the Sabbath was a bottom-line reality of their religious identity. Yet the early Church quickly established Sunday, not Saturday, as the “Lord’s Day,” because it was on Sunday, the “third day,” that Jesus had been raised from the dead. As Benedict XVI wrote in Jesus of Nazareth — Holy Week, “Only an event that marked souls indelibly could bring about such a profound realignment of the religious culture of the week... [The] celebration of the Lord’s day, which was characteristic of the Christian community from the outset, is one of the most convincing proofs that something extraordinary happened that day — the discovery of the empty tomb and the encounter with the Risen Lord.”

Living as we do on the far side of Easter, it is sometimes hard to grasp just how profoundly shattering an experience the first Easter season was for those who lived it. That is why we should be grateful to the Gospel writers, and the Church that accepted and confirmed their witness, for including in the New Testament the first disciples’ perplexity about just what had happened. Encountering their confusion, we learn that Christ, raised from the dead, changes everything: time, history, prophecy, hope, the here-and-now, vocational responsibility and right worship all come into clearer focus through the encounter with the Risen Lord. The unity of God’s self-revelation to Israel and in his Son is confirmed.

The Church, witness to the truth of the Resurrection, is born.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-2125.

By George Weigel
and the Trinitarian embrace in heaven. Holy Orders — diaconate, priesthood or episcopate — does not make a member of the Church a better Christian and does not necessarily ensure that the one ordained will be holy; holiness, which means having the love of God poured into one’s heart and living in charity, is the goal of the Christian life, not holding an “ecclesiastical position” in worldly terms.

Jesus revolutionized men’s rapport with women and counted numerous women as his closest disciples and witnesses to the Resurrection. His own Mother, Mary, is held up before all the Christian faithful as the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and the perfect image of the Church and holiness for her perfect faith, most abundant charity and unending hope in God’s promises. If receiving the sacrament of holy orders were about worthiness, no one could have been chosen before Mary.

The Magisterium, the teaching office of the Catholic Church, has infallibly taught the impossibility of conferring priestly ordination on women. (cf. Saint John Paul II, Ordinatio Sacerdotalis and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Responsio Pontificum Romanorum dum conferendum diocesum in re sacerdotii tabulae, 1994) This can be a difficult teaching for many because the priesthood is often seen through the lens of power and it can be easily forgotten that holiness is the criterion of greatness in the Church, not ordination. Saint John Paul II confirmed the universal and constant teaching of the Catholic Church on this question in such a way that it is “definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” and is irrefutable.

“Therefore, in order that all doubt may be removed regarding a matter of great importance, a matter which pertains to the Church’s divine constitution itself, in virtue of my ministry of confirming the brethren (cf. Lk 22:32) I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church’s faithful.” (Saint John Paul II, Ordinatio Sacerdotalis, 1994)

Pope Francis was asked about this question on his return flight from World Youth Day, 2013, and answered as follows:

“I would like to explain a bit more what I said about women’s participation in the Church. It can’t just be about their acting as altar servers, heads of Caritas, catechists… No! They have to be more, profoundly more, even mystically more, along with everything I said about the theology of womanhood. And, as far as women’s ordination is concerned, the Church has spoken and said: “No”! John Paul II said it, but with a definitive formulation. That door is closed, but on this issue I want to tell you something. I have said it, but I repeat it. Our Lady, Mary, was more important than the Apostles, than bishops and deacons and priests. Women, in the Church, are more important than bishops and priests; how, this is something we have to try to explain better, because I believe that we lack a theological explanation of this. Thank you.” (Pope Francis, Interview, Sunday, July 28, 2013)

What are the consequences for participating in a “woman’s ordination”?

As this unfortunate ceremony will take place outside the Church and undermine the unity of the Church, those attempting to confer and those women who attempt to receive holy orders have, by their own actions, place themselves outside of full communion with the Church, and are latae sententiae excommunicated. (Normae de delictis Congregationi pro Doctrina Fidelis reservatis seu Normae de delictis contra fidem necon de gravioribus delictis, Article 5, 21 May 2010) Additionally, those who by their presence give witness and encouragement to this fundamental break with the unity of the people of God place themselves outside of full communion with the Church. This is not merely a disciplinary, judgment or mandate of the Church. Nor is it merely the result of opinion or advocacy of a theological view by those involved. Rather, by conducting and taking part in such a ceremony, it is the choice of the participants to place themselves outside of full communion with Catholic Church.

What constitutes “participation” in this event?

Those conducting the ceremony and claiming to be bishops, and the women who present themselves to confer ordination to the priesthood and diacurate, are the direct participats. Those who, through their presence at the ceremony, encourage and openly defy Church teaching are also considered to be participants.

Practically speaking, what does it mean to say that they place themselves outside the Church?

It means they may not receive the sacraments, until they are reconciled with the Church through the sacrament of confession. For those who attempted to confer or receive the sacrament of holy orders the removal of the excommunications is necessary as well.

Does that mean anyone who attends this ceremony must be denied the Eucharist or removed from ministry in the Church?

It is the responsibility of those receiving the Eucharist to make certain they are properly disposed to receive the sacrament. “A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to celebrate Mass or receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess; in this case the person is to remember the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition which includes the resolution of confessing as soon as possible.” (Canon 916)

Those attempting to confer the sacrament of holy orders and those attempting to receive it are under the same obligation not to present themselves for Holy Communion (can. 916) in addition to falling under canon 915: “Those who have been excommunicated or interdicted after the imposition or declaration of the penalty and others obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy communion.”

Aren’t we really just punishing these people because of their views?

Those who take part in the ceremony are separating themselves from the community of faith as an immediate and direct consequence of their own actions. People are free to believe what they want without coercion. However, when we are baptized, we promise to believe all that God has revealed and all that His Church teaches; no one is forced to be Catholic. They have chosen to take part in a public ceremony which is contrary to the irrefutable teaching of the Church and which undermines the unity of the Church. In doing so, they have chosen to separate themselves from the full communion of the Church by their own actions and views.

Resources:

Saint John Paul II. Ordinatio Sacerdotalis, 1994
http://www.vatican.va/resources/resources_norme_en.html
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Inter in signores, 1976.
http://www.ducroor.org/ds/documentos/con_catholic_doc/1976/10_inter_in
signiores_en.html
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Normae de delictis Congregationes pro Doctrina Fidelis reservatis seu Normae de delictis contra fidem necon de gravioribus delictis, Act. 5, 2010
http://www.vatican.va/resources/resources_norme_en.html
Gerhard Cardinal Muller, Priesthood and Diaconate. 2002
http://www.amazon.com/Priesthood-Diaconate-Recipient-Perspective-
Christology/dp/0898708923

Walking with those trying to correct their mistakes

A reflection on prison ministry

By Ed Dennis

One of the enduring challenges of life is to accurately align perceptions with reality. The Prison Ministry Program, supported by our Diocese, is a good example. What is often unclear together with pieces of half truths and emotions. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis cautions us in this regard as he himself states, “Who am I to judge?”

Before we judge let’s consider the realities at the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater, Michigan. A dedicated group of inmates are seeking to positively change their lives and those around them through education, with an ultimate goal of attaining fully accredited college degrees. The groups’ stated goals are to discover and adopt responsible alternatives to the criminal lifestyle and to share what they have learned with other inmates, increasing the likelihood of successful integration back into society.

These life-changing efforts and successes remind all of us that positive self-esteem and a sense of self worth for those incarcerated can change attitudes and values and build character. At Lakeland Correctional, for example, the individual needs of each participant is evaluated and then specific programs ranging from basic math and English to college degree courses are recommended.

These activities are changing lives and as St Paul instructs, “...be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” This is where the prison ministry works to fill the gaps between the temporal and the spiritual as St Paul continues “...that you may discern what is the will of God.”

Prison ministry offers the spiritual strength to continue these good works. We all struggle in this “present darkness” and the struggle is greatly intensified in the prison environment. Prison ministry attempts to be a light, realizing that all of us are a work in process, none of us are the same as we were five, ten, twenty years ago, we change physically, mentally and with God’s grace, spiritually. Those who attend the services provided by Prison Ministries are often a “new creation, the old things have passed away: behold, new things have come” in Christ.

Consider being a “light” in prison, jail or juvenile detention. As Pope Francis tells us, “I am at your service.” May we follow his example and find peace in the joy of service.

Ed Dennis has been married 54 years to his high school sweetheart, and has been a member of St. Mary Parish, Marshall, for the same number of years. He has been involved in prison ministry for past four years at Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater and Calhoun County Jail, Battle Creek.
Ministerio Campesino Migrante de la Diócesis

Como en años anteriores, ya están llegando a nuestra Diócesis, los campesinos migrantes para trabajar en las cosechas en los 300 campos que cubre la Diócesis en los nueve condados de Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph y Van Buren. Les damos la Bienvenida y deseamos que esta temporada también esté plena de bienestar espiritual para todos los campesinos y sus familias.

Las Parroquias abrirán sus puertas para acoger a los campesinos que llegan de Texas, Florida, México y otros lugares incluyendo países de Centro América. Queremos que celebren el terremoto benéfico volunterarios y voluntarias que alegremente y con gran entrega colaboran en este ministerio para poder llegar como iglesia y como comunidad de fe a todos los campesinos.

También como cada año, la Diócesis invita misioneros que nos ayuden en la atención espiritual y pastoral de los campesinos, visitando los campos y atendiendo desde luego nuestras necesidades. Este año estamos teniendo desde comienzos de junio, la colaboración del Padre Vicente y las Hermanas son de la Congregación de la Sociedad de Nuestra Señora Asunción, María Jesucristo y Jeanette que estarán deseamos que esta temporada también esté plena de bienestar espiritual para todos y se encarna en todas las culturas y pueblos. Dios es para todas las naciones. Por esta razón este día puede ser llamará el domingo de la intercultural donde lo que uno y conecta el amor de Dios. "Hay diferentes dones espirituales, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversos ministros, pero el Señor es el mismo. Hay diversidad de obras, pero es el mismo Dios quien obra en cada uno en todos. La manifestación del Espíritu que a cada uno se le da es para provecho común. (1 Corintios 12, 4-7). Podemos a Dios que nos ayude e ilumine para poner en práctica estos dones al servicio de la comunidad.

En este día de fiesta después de la muerte y resurrección de Jesús, Dios continua diciéndonos que no tenemos que entregar a nuestro Señor y el alma; este es un día de esperanza, de energía, de luz y de fortaleza. En tonos Pedro dijo: "Israelitas, escuchen mis palabras: Dios acreditó en ustedes a Jesús de Nazaret. Hizo que realizara entre ustedes milagros, proclamó y señales que ya conocían. Ustedes, sin embargo, lo entregaron a los paganos para ser crucificado y morir en la cruz, y con esto se cumplió el plan que Dios tenía dispuesto. Pero Dios lo libró de las ataduras de la muerte y lo resucitó, pero no era posible que quedase bajo el poder de la muerte. Escuchen lo que David decía a su respecto: Veo constantemente al Señor delante de mí; está a mi derecha para que no vacile. Por eso se preocupa en correr el camino de lo justo, hasta mi cuerpo esperará en paz. Porque no me abandonará en el lugar de los muertos ni permitirá que mi Santo experimente la corrupción. Me has dado conocer los caminos de la vida, me calmaré de gozo con tu presencia". (Hechos 2, 22-28).

Como símbolo litúrgico hoy con cuenta la cincuentena (cincuenta) días de la Pascua y el ciro paschal que ha permanecido en el altar en estos días se trasladó junto a la fuente bautismal.

Calendario/Calendar

Junio/June

Tercer Año de Formación. Retiro Espiritual: Compromiso: Ministerio y Discipulado en el Señor. — 7:30 a.m. Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo. — 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Retiro de Quinceañeras Deben asistir con sus padres y sus padrinos (Quinceañera Retreat – must participate with their parents and main sponsors), en el Centro Alemán ubicado en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Hartford, Se abrirá a las 12:30-2:30 p.m. (Aleman Center located at Immaculate Conception Church, Hartford, MI 49057). Horario: Lunes de 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m., Martes de 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. y Domingos de 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Dirección: 63559 60th Ave., Hartford, MI 49057.

El Centro Alemán, es un proyecto diocesano para ofrecer servicio de emergencia de ropa y comida a quienes lo necesitan. Está ubicado en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Hartford. La Parroquia de St. Thomas More está comprometida desde hace años en el recolección y organización de la ropa; este centro, es atendido por personas que ofrecen su trabajo voluntario como servicio a la comunidad.

El centro Alemán lleva este nombre, en honor al Diácono Eugenio Alemán de origen mexicano y quien dedicó su vida a la ayuda de las personas recién llegadas al área o que necesitaban algún tipo de ayuda. La Familia Alemán contó con el apoyo de todo el proyecto. Ellos ayudan los donativos.

La ropa y comida de emergencia que se ofrece en este centro no tiene costo alguno para las personas bajas recursos económicos especialmente migrantes. La ropa y comida del Centro Alemán son donadas por personas de las diferentes parroquias católicas de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo y por personas de buena voluntad.

Se necesitan voluntarios bilingües. Donen su tiempo una vez a la semana (lunes, martes o domingos) llamando al 269-903-0299.

Informes

Pasaportes. Es muy importante que saquen pasaporte a sus hijos. Ya sea el pasaporte de Estados Unidos o mexicano (si no son ciudadanos de este país). Se siguen habiendo casos de deportaciones y desafortunadamente los niños quedan sin uno de los pasaportes y eso hace más difícil poder sacarle pasaportes a los hijos estadounidenses y/o mexicanos porque se necesita autorización de los padres. También es importante que el pasaporte esté en la cédula y que el niño tenga su pasaporte. Se han encontrado casos de niños que han estado en Estados Unidos por mucho tiempo, pero no tienen pasaporte porque el pasaporte no se les dio.

En un momento de angustia no es fácil tomar decisiones tan radicales. Por eso es importante que quieran cuidar de sus hijos o como hacerlos llegar al país para reunirse como familia.

Instituto San Agustín, Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo. La Oficina del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis recibe inscripciones para el programa de formación de tres años, 2014-2017. Las clases son un sábado al mes (7 sábados al año), comenzando en septiembre. Si desea más información, pregunte en su parroquia o llame a Angelica Valdes del Ministerio Hispano al 259-903-0197 o hpl@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Después de mucha nieve y frío, por fin han llegado los días de verano. Aprovechamos estos días culturales y disfrutando de familia. (Por qué si no un fin de semana en el campo si o no se puede tomar todo el fin de semana, entonces por qué no aprovechar una tarde para hacer una caminata o ver la puesta del sol)? Tomemos esos momentos para hacer una reflexión de la belleza que Dios ha dado al mundo con la naturaleza. Disfrutemos de esa belleza y compartamos unos momentos de reflexión espiritual en familia.

Un buen padre se preocupa no solamente por el sustento económico sino también por el alimento espiritual de su esposa y sus hijos dedicando tiempo para rezar, para compartir, para jugar y para escuchar a sus hijos. Felicitaciones también a todos aquellos que hacen las cosas por sus hijos con un sentimiento de amor, paciencia, padres, especialmente apoyando a los jóvenes menores que llegan a este país solos, buscando un mejor porvenir. El 15 de junio celebraremos el día del Padre. Damos gracias a Dios por la vocación de ser buenos padres de familia.
Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct

A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line: 877-002-0115. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the diocese’s efforts to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes and ministries. This line is for reporting suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse within diocesan institutions and ministries only. If you have some other concern about diocesan schools, parishes or ministries, please contact the appropriate diocesan school, parish or office directly. In all cases of sexual abuse you are encouraged to report all cases to the local police or protective service.

** centrally de Jesus, Fermont. One day diocesan retreat for the formation of engaged couples and married couples who wish to have a day of reflection. This retreat does not replace the formation provided by each parish. Conducted in Spanish. Contact: Veronica Rodriguez, 269-903-0117.

** JUNE 14-15: Summer Camp for Girls – Camp Marian, This summer camp, filled with fun, food, fire and friends is for girls who are currently in 5th grade. The Camp takes place by Lake Marian at our Benedictine Monastery in Ferndand, Indiana. For more info email Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at vsinkhorn@thedome.org or call 812-367-1411, ex. 2830. Cost is $45, due at registration.

** JULY/AUGUST CENTRAL DEANEY July 11, 18, 25: Theology on Tap, TFI Fridays in Kalamazoo. Meets every Friday in July with a final Mass and picnic event in August. Contact: Tim McNamar, 269-903-0139. 

** JULY 26: Diocesan Quinceañera Retreat (bi linguistic) Bilingual, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, a retreat for the preparation of Quinceañeras. Parents may attend the retreat with their daughter(s). Contact: Veronica Rodriguez, 269-903-0197.

** LAKESHORE DEANEY July 20: Mass with Bishop Bradley and Picnic for Persons with Disabilities and their Families, St. John-St. Bernard Parish, 555 East Delaware, Benton Harbor, MI (St. Bernard site), 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Contact: Lisa Irwin

** NORTHERN DEANEY July 21-24: Vacation Bible School, St. Mary’s Visitation Church, Mattawan. This day of retreat and prayer will examine the “Secret Code” of the Carol The 12 Days of Christmas. Cost: $15. Scholarships available. Contact: Lisa Irwin

** NORTHERN DEANEY Aug 9: Spanish language diocesan Pre-Marriage Encounter, San Felipe Center, Kalamazoo. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199 or struchan@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

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** JUNE 14-15: One in Christ Marriage Preparation, Transformations: CSJ Spirituality Center, Kalamazoo. Contact: Socorro Truchan, 269-903-0199 or struchan@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

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Happy 5th Anniversary to Bishop Bradley!
Bishop Paul J. Bradley marked his fifth anniversary as the Bishop of Kalamazoo on June 5th. The past five years have been busy ones for the bishop as he has visited every parish, Catholic school and Catholic institution; written two pastoral letters; ordained 10 men to the priesthood and 11 men to the permanent diaconate; lead the envisioning process for the diocese in conjunction with its 40th anniversary in 2011; celebrated countless diocesan Masses; and confirmed more than 5,000 young people and adults. Happy anniversary wishes may be sent to: officeofthebishop@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty
O God our Creator,
from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society. We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith. Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome— for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Quilters cloak graduates with intricate blankets
This spring in addition to their diplomas lucky high school graduates in Otsego will receive a handmade quilt lovingly sewn by an interdenominational organization known as the “Prayers and Squares.” For the past nine years the group meets to quilt and pray for those in need and those requesting their specific prayers. In addition to the special graduate quilts more than 150 quilts have been presented to parishioners, families and friends. The quilters have recently added military prayer squares complete with a prayer for soldiers to carry in their pockets.

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