Catholic Relief Service’s Rice Bowl offers great family-friendly way to observe Lent

Timothy lived on less than a dollar a day with his wife and five children in Malawi. As a farmer, he struggled to grow potatoes and corn on his plot and worked extra odd jobs to make ends meet. Then he joined a program run by Catholic Relief Services. They taught him how to grow chili peppers, a crop that requires little water and sells well in the market. They also helped him form a group with other farmers to buy fertilizer at wholesale prices and negotiate with sellers as a group.

This Lent, making small sacrifices for Rice Bowl can help Catholic Relief Services provide programs for people like Timothy. Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Service’s Lenten faith-in-action program for parishes, schools and families. Through the three Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Catholics prepare spiritually for the most sacred mysteries of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection and also live in solidarity with our poorest brothers and sisters in Christ.

Catholic Relief Service’s Rice Bowl program helps Catholics live out the three pillars of Lent by encouraging them to pray and fast to help those unable to meet their own material needs. In addition to the Rice Bowls you can find at your parish, Catholic Relief Services offers a number of features online (www.crsricebowl.org) including daily reflections, family activities, meatless recipes from around the world and stories of hope like Timothy’s. New this year, participants can download an app for their phones so they can access many of these great features on the go.

In addition to helping families and communities in developing countries, 25 percent of the money received from Rice Bowl each year stays in our own diocese to fund local grants for hunger and poverty alleviation projects. In September 2013, five grants totaling $9,200 were awarded to:

- **Food Bank of South Central Michigan** — $2,500 for the Fresh Food Initiative for low-income Kalamazoo County neighborhoods;
- **Project Hope** — $1,200 for personal care/hygiene items for their pantry in northern Allegan County.

These items cannot be purchased with food stamps, yet are essential to basic health, self-esteem and employability;

- **Christian Service Center of Niles** — $3,000 for food and meat purchases. This is run by St. Mary’s Parish in Niles;
- **Foods Resource Bank (FRB)** — $1,000 for the CRS Community Growing Project. Through this project, commodities (grains, meat, milk, fruit) are produced and sold in the US, with the proceeds going specifically to CRS to implement smallholder agricultural programs in the developing world;
- **Branch Area Food Pantry** — $1,500 to make fresh milk, eggs, and cheese available to clients in Branch County.

For more information about the grant program, or Rice Bowl in general, contact Lisa Irwin, 269-903-0177 or lirwin@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Would you like someone to come and speak about the work of CRS, CRS Rice Bowl and the preferential option for the poor that is an important element of Catholic Social Teaching? Our own Deacon Dean Hermann is a Global Fellow for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and is happy to be of service. Contact Deacon Dean at 817-999-7399 or brjosdcn93@gmail.com

Take the Lenten Photo Challenge

Do you make meatless meals? Pray and reflect on the CRS daily reflections? Serve the poor in your community? Throw your loose change into your rice bowl? Show us how you “Rice Bowl” and you can win a prize.

For a list of parish partnerships see page 6.

For more information about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan see Bishop Bradley’s “Bishop’s Perspective” on pages 3-4.
FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

You know that friend who finishes your sentences; saves you from buying the disastrous jeans and is always your greatest cheerleader. Well, I have that friend and was fortunate enough that she recently came to visit me—as only a best friend would do to travel 2,000 miles from the West Coast in February during this worst winter we’ve had in decades.

My friend Stephanie and I have been through a lot together in these four-decades of friendship from teenage dramas to weddings to having babies and now dealing with both our parents’—and our own—mortality. During her recent visit, we cried, laughed, snorted, giggled, and made spectacles of ourselves as we got lost in the aisles of discount stores deciding on matching purple shoes and funky-style jammies.

And even though we’ve known each other since we were wee little kindergarteners, Stephanie and I still discover new things about each other with each visit—things you only know when you spend time with someone and are gifted the luxury of observation and conversation.

I was reflecting on this in the early morning hours feeling peacefully joyful as my friend slept soundly in my guest room and I sat at my computer wondering what to write for this month’s column. And then it hit me—maybe this is having a “personal relationship” with Jesus means. No, not shopping together and gasping at the latest episode of “Scandal,” but spending time together, getting to know each other even though we’ve been close our entire lives.

Isn’t Lent the perfect time to do that?

For me, I must admit, during most Lenten seasons I’m dutiful about “giving up” something as an annual discipline, but I haven’t always taken my Lenten journey beyond that initial step. Lent is a great opportunity to sit down and think, if I had 40 days in a row with my best friend what would I do? In the case of growing closer to Jesus maybe it’s spending each morning in a prayerful conversation and getting reacquainted by reading the Gospel accounts of His time on earth. Or devoting some time helping others as He did—whether helping out at a soup kitchen, visiting someone who’s lonely, or giving away some of your stuff to someone who needs it.

Just recently while encouraging the crowd at his weekly audience to go to confession, another good thing to put on your Lent checklist, Pope Francis said, “the Sacrament of Reconciliation calls us back to God, and embraces us with His infinite mercy and joy.” I think that embrace is like going to confession, another good thing to put on your Lent checklist, Pope Francis said, “the Sacrament of Reconciliation calls us back to God, and embraces us with His infinite mercy and joy.” I think that embrace is like giving you an opportunity to spend each day growing closer to the friend best friend we’ve ever known.

Pope Francis MARCH Intentions

Respect for Women — That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.
Vocations — That many young people may accept the Lord’s invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

P rinted by Gannett. The Good News is the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, announcements, etc., issued under the auspices “Official” are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinions, columns, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Good News, 222 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, M 49007-2700, Fax 269-346-6440, Telephone 269-903-0165. Email: thegoodnews@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Published: monthly/10 times per year

Distribution: The first weekend of the month via parish bulletins.

Circulation: 25,000

Address changes should be sent to: The Good News, Diocese of Kalamazoo, 215 S. Washington Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007-2700; Fax 269-346-6440; Telephone 269-903-0165; Email: thegoodnews@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Notice: The APRIL edition will be distributed in advance of the APRIIL 5 & 6.

Mission Statement of The Good News: The Good News is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Bishop of Kalamazoo is the publisher and president. The Good News is an extension in the print medium of the teaching authority of the Bishop. Therefore, it must always and at all times present Catholic teaching in an orthodox, authentic and balanced manner. Its mission and goals proceed from this fundamental reality.

The Good News is the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s newspaper. PUBLISHED: monthly/10 times per year

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Bradley announces the addition of a new diocesan seminarian, Roberto Guerrero Garcia.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo has welcomed a new seminarian, Roberto Jose Guerrero Garcia from Ayapel, Cordoba, Colombia, South America. Roberto is 22 years old and the second oldest of six children born to parents Salvador Segundo Guerrero and Eneida Garcia.

He had previously been in seminary formation in his home diocese in Colombia, but Roberto more recently discerned a missionary call in his priestly vocation. Roberto learned about the Diocese of Kalamazoo through a nearby community of religious sisters: the Missionary Sisters of the Divine Spirit. Every year these sisters send several members of their community to assist migrant ministry in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. One of the priests at the seminary serves as their chaplain and told Roberto about the work they do with migrant communities in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

In January, Roberto began his formation for the Diocese of Kalamazoo as a student at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla. He has finished his second year of Theology, but will need extra time to strengthen his English-speaking skills. St. Vincent de Paul Seminary will be able to provide Roberto with intense English studies in addition to spiritual formation. He recently traveled to meet his new family of faith here in the Diocese of Kalamazoo and participated in “The Presence” high school retreat held last month along with the 12 other Seminarians at Hackett Catholic Central [see related story, page 6].

Living in remodeled convent, Pope Benedict is not cloistered, aides say

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In retirement, Pope Benedict XVI follows a daily schedule similar to that of any retired bishop or religious: He prays, reads, strolls, talks with people and offers them spiritual advice, the Vatican spokesman said.

Although he “lives in a low-key way, without public attention, that does nothing to cause or even influence the resignation.”

“The day begins with Mass, then with the breviary, followed by breakfast,” he told Famiglia Cristiana, a Catholic magazine. “The morning usually is dedicated to prayer and study, to the mail and to receiving guests.”

Archbishop Ganswein, who continues as Pope Benedict’s personal secretary while also serving Pope Francis as prefect of the papal household, summarized the retired pope’s day as filled “with prayer most of all, with study, with personal correspondence and visits.”

“The pope did not flee a responsibility, but was courageous” enough to realize he no longer had the strength to carry out the papal ministry, he said.

Archbishop Ganswein confirmed that Pope Francis and Pope Benedict speak frequently on the telephone and have done so since the evening Pope Francis was elected.

“I was in the Sistine Chapel to greet the new pope and promise him obedience,” the archbishop said. “Immediately, Pope Francis asked me about Pope Benedict and said he wanted to call him. I dialed the number and handed him the telephone.”

Father Lombardi said the pope and the retired pontiff have shown the world that there was nothing to fear with having Pope Benedict live in the Vatican while a new pope reigned. “The fact is that the papacy is a service and not a power,” he said. Pope Benedict “fulfilled his service before God and in good conscience passed the witness of this service to another.”

As for Pope Benedict’s daily routine, Father Lombardi said it is that of “an elderly religious.” He said the retired pope’s guests come for conversation, for dialogue and “ask his advice and spiritual support.”

Pope Francis looks at a life-sized replica of himself made entirely out of chocolate in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican Feb. 5. Made of 1.5 tons of cocoa, the chocolate image was given to the pontiff during his general audience, according to Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano. (CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano via Reuters)
Planning for parish renewal and future growth

Given the record-breaking snow and winter storms these past months, I think I can safely say that everyone eagerly awaiting the coming of Spring and its warmer temperatures and first signs of new life. In our liturgical life, we are also ready for “Spring.” On March 5th, Ash Wednesday, the entire Church begins our Lenten journey — our spiritual springtime. This is the time we move toward our annual call to be renewed — to come to “new life” in our relationship with Jesus, and with one another. I hope that by the time you are reading this article that you are reflecting on where you hope this year’s Lenten journey will take you, and what Lenten resolutions you have made to help you to be renewed. Maybe you will focus on self-denial and sacrifice, such as giving up a favorite treat or pastime; maybe you will focus on prayer, resolving to spend more time with Jesus in personal prayer, or to participate in daily Mass or weekly Stations of the Cross, or frequent Eucharistic adoration. Whatever your Lenten “plan” is, the goal should be to renew yourself spiritually and to bring you to a deeper and more vibrant relationship with Jesus and His Church.

It is with that same idea in mind that I have recently launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan which will help our Diocesan Church to be renewed, strengthened and well prepared for the future over the next three to five years.

We live our faith every day in our homes, and it is from our homes that we set out to “practice our faith” in the world in which we live. We find our primary support from those with whom we share our daily lives in our homes, which we sometimes refer to as “the domestic Church.” We find even more support and strength when we come together as people of faith at our local parish(es), where we can be nourished by the Eucharist, taught by God’s Holy Word, and strengthened through the celebration of the sacraments. In my Pastoral Letter, What I have heard and seen, after my first visit to all 59 of our parishes, I reflected on the “Parish Partnerships” as a way of engaging our parishes to the lost souls of our “centers of hope” — places where we grow together into a community of faith-filled people, who are sent forth on our mission to put our faith into practice as we bring hope to the world. Beginning with soon-to-be Saint John Paul the Great, continuing with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and strongly being advanced by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Church at every level — universal, diocesan, parish and domestic — is being called to embrace the New Evangelization. It is becoming more clearly understood that the New Evangelization is the responsibility of all baptized Catholics as well as those in the “mission” of proclaiming, preaching and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Why do we need a Diocesan Pastoral Plan? Well, just like our own Lenten journey, if we do not have a “Lenten Plan,” we will more than likely find ourselves floundering through these 40 days as though they were just like any other days. Having a Lenten plan focuses our attention on the special opportunity that Lent affords all of us, and challenges us to remember why God loves us so much that He sent His only-begotten Son Jesus to be with us, to live among us, and to suffer, die and rise on the Third Day to bring us and all the world salvation. The Lenten Plan has as a foundation the three pillars of prayer, fasting and self-denial or almsgiving to help guide us along the right paths of our Lenten journey so that we experience Easter joy.

In much the same way, our Diocese needs a plan and a guide for our journey. These are exciting times, but challenging times as well. These are exciting times because we are invited to participate in the New Evangelization in ways that perhaps we have not done in the past. On the other hand, these are challenging times because we live in a culture that is consciously trying to remove God from society’s consciousness and to relegate God and the ways of faith to the insides of our churches and to the margins of society. The Good News of Jesus Christ is not to be relegated to the insides of the churches; it is to be “shouted from the rooftops.” These are also challenging times because, even though we are blessed with 13 seminarians (who are anywhere from two to eight years away from ordination), the stark fact is that within the next five years, 15-18 of our current active priests will be reaching retirement age. We need to have a plan in place for how we can continue to provide pastoral care in the face of these realities. We need to find ways to build on the good efforts currently taking place within a number of our parishes who have combined efforts and to encourage that approach in the future.

As part of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, all 59 parishes in our Diocese will enter into “Parish Partnerships” with one or more neighboring parish(es) to explore new and creative ways of helping one another. These partnerships (see page 6 for list by Deanery) were established after much consultation with the priests over the past 10 months. In early February I met with all the active priests and parish coordinators to officially launch this plan and to discuss ways that the “Parish Partnerships” might begin their conversations.

The Law of the Church known as the Code of Canon Law, as well as the teachings from the Second Vatican Council and the encyclicals/instructions of our recent Holy Fathers all leave much to say about the importance of the Church as experienced at the parish level. In the Second Vatican Council and the encyclicals/instructions of our recent Holy Fathers all met with all the active priests and parish coordinators to officially launch this plan and to establish after much consultation with the priests over the past 10 months. In early February I have launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan to explore new and creative ways of faith to the insides of our churches and to the margins of society. The Good News of Jesus Christ.

We have much to say about the importance of the Church as experienced at the parish level. In the Second Vatican Council and the encyclicals/instructions of our recent Holy Fathers all met with all the active priests and parish coordinators to officially launch this plan and to establish after much consultation with the priests over the past 10 months. In early February I have recently launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan which will help our Diocesan Church to be renewed, strengthened and well prepared for the future over the next three to five years.

Vivimos nuestra fe cada día en nuestros hogares, y es desde nuestras casas que nos disponemos a “practicar nuestra fe” en el mundo en que vivimos. Encontramos nuestro principal apoyo en aquellos con quienes compartimos nuestra vida cotidiana en nuestros hogares, a lo que a veces nos referimos como “Iglesia doméstica”. Encontramos aún más apoyo y fortaleza cuando nos unimos como personas de fe en nuestra(s) parroquia(s) local(es), en donde podemos ser alimentados por la Eucaristía, enseñados por la Santa Palabra de Dios, y alentados a seguir a Jesús en los caminos de la fe a los interiores de nuestras parroquias y a los márgenes de la sociedad. En mi primera carta pastoral, Lo que he oído y visto, después de mi primera visita a nuestras 59 parroquias, reflexioné sobre el hecho de que nuestras parroquias están llamadas a ser “Centros de Esperanza” — lugares donde crecemos juntos como una comunidad de personas llenas de fe, que son lanzadas en nuestra misión de poner nuestra fe en práctica a medida que traemos “esperanza” al mundo. Partiendo de quien pronto será llamado San Juan Pablo El Grande y continuando con el Papa Benedicto XVI Emérito y siendo animados por nuestro Santo Papa Francisco, el Papa en el último informe, los espíritus de Dios en nuestras parroquias domésticas — nuestra Iglesia parroquial y doméstica — está siendo llamada a abrazar la Nueva Evangelización. Se está comprendiendo con mayor claridad que la Nueva Evangelización es responsabilidad de todos los católicos bautizados, de cada uno de nosotros, de tomar parte en la “misión” de proclamar, predicar y compartir la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo.

“¿Por qué necesitamos un Plan Pastoral Diocesano? Pues bien, al igual que nuestro propio camino cuaresmal, si no tenemos un “Plan de Cuaresma, “ probablemente nos encontra
temos tambaleando a través de estos 40 días como si fueran igual a otros días. Tener un plan Cuaresmal centra nuestra atención en la oportunidad especial que la Cuaresma ofrece a todos nosotros, y nos desafía a recordar cómo Dios nos ama tanto que envió a su único Hijo Jesucristo para ser uno con nosotros, a vivir entre nosotros, a sufrir, morir y resucitar al tercer día para traernos a todos y a todo el mundo la salvación. El Plan Cuaresmal tiene como base tres pilares: La oración, el ayuno y la abnegación o la limosna para ayudar a guiarnos por los caminos correctos de nuestro camino cuaresmal y para que experimentemos la alegría Pascual.

De la misma manera, nuestra Diócesis necesita un plan y una guía para nuestro viaje. Estos son tiempos emocionantes, pero también tiempos difíciles. Estos son tiempos emocionantes porque se nos invita a participar en la nueva evangelización de formas que tal vez no hemos hecho en el pasado. Por otro lado, estos son tiempos difíciles, porque vivimos en una cultura que está tratando conscientemente de sacar a Dios de la conciencia social y de relegar a Dios y los caminos de la fe a los interiores de nuestras parroquias y a los márgenes de la sociedad. La Buena Noticia de Jesucristo no es para ser relegada a la parte interior de las iglesias; “es para ser “proclamada a los cuatro vientos” “Estos son también tiempos difíciles, ya que, a pesar de que hemos sido bendecidos con 13 seminaristas (que están entre dos y 8 años de su ordenación), la cruda realidad es que en los próximos cinco años, de 15 a 18 de nuestros sacerdotes activos estarán alcanzando la edad de jubilación. Necesitamos tener un plan en marcha para saber cómo podemos seguir prestando atención pastoral frente a estas realidades. Tenemos que encontrar maneras de construir sobre los buenos esfuerzos que se están produciendo en varias de nuestras parroquias que han combinado esfuerzos por diversas razones, y fomentar este enfoque en el futuro.

Como parte del Plan Pastoral Diocesano, las 59 parroquias de nuestra Diócesis entra
rán en “Parroquias Asociadas “ con una o más parroquias vecinas para explorar nuevas y creativas maneras de ayudarse unas a otras. Esta manera de asociarse (véase la página 6 para ver la lista de los seleccionados) después de mucha consulta con nuestros sacerdotes en los últimos 10 meses. A principios de febrero, me reuní con todos los sacerdotes activos y coordinadores parroquiales para lanzar oficialmente este plan y para discutir maneras en las que las “Parroquias Asociadas “ podrían comenzar sus conversaciones.

La ley de la Iglesia conocida como el Código de Derecho Canónico, así como las en
tenciones del Concilio Vaticano II y las encíclicas / instrucciones de nuestros recientes San
tos Padres, todas tienen mucho que decir acerca de la importancia de la Iglesia vivida a nivel parroquial. En su reciente Exhortación Apostólica Evangelii Gaudium, (alegría del Evangelio), el Papa Francisco ofrece ideas muy directas y puntuales sobre lo que una co

Continued on page 4
I added the numbers in the above list to delineate the five basic elements of a vibrant parish which, stated in a slightly different way, call for parishes to: 1-Build a sense of community; 2-Centers of worship with a focus on the Eucharist and the other sacraments; 3-Teach the faith through ongoing catechesis; 4-Serve the community through works of charity; and 5-Administer the daily needs of the parish.

In our Diocese, we have large parishes and very small parishes; we have urban parishes and rural parishes; we have complex parishes and rather simple parishes. We have parishes where there are activities taking place practically around the clock while we have other parishes where the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is the primary focus. No single parish can necessarily do or excel at all five elements. However, I believe, that if we combine our efforts, energies and resources, we can create inspiring and life-changing pastoral care for everyone.

Our parish partnerships will evolve. What we have begun is to encourage preliminary conversations. Of course, there are already many examples of collaboration taking place across the diocese from coordinated communal penance services to shared youth ministry programs. My hope is that type of “partnership” will flourish and grow.

The realized vision of strong faith communities working together will yield many blessings, from increased Mass attendance, a greater response to religious and priestly vocations, and higher enrollments in our Catholic schools. As our parishes become those “centers of hope”, and develop as communities of hospitality and formation, they will be successful agents of the new evangelization. This, I believe, will also help to strengthen our families, our “Domestic Churches”, and also help our priests to be joyful and happy Shepherds of their flocks.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, as you begin to see the signs of new life during this season of Spring, as well as during this Lenten Springtime, I pray that each of us will be renewed and refreshed in our relationship with God, and with the Body of Christ. At the same time as we move forward with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, may the light of our faith truly shine for all the world to see.

Let us enter into this season of Lent, not reluctantly, nor fearfully, but joyfully and enthusiastically, knowing that God’s Holy Spirit will lead us to new and abundant Life in Christ our Risen Lord.
EWTN Open line host to headline annual Catholic Men’s Conference

John Martignoni, founder and president of the Bible Christian Society and host of EWTN’s Open Line, is the keynote speaker for this year’s Men’s Conference, Saturday, March 29th at St. Augustine Cathedral. Martignoni will speak on the topic “Does God Want Everyone to be Catholic?” while Rev. James Adams, parochial vicar, St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo and Hackett Catholic Central chaplain, will present “Living the Moral Life in the 21st Century.”

Martignoni founded the Bible Christian Society as an apostolate dedicated to explaining and defending the Scriptural foundations and truths of the Catholic faith. He is also the Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Birmingham (Alabama) and the founder of Birmingham’s Catholic Radio.

According to conference organizers, the conference’s theme, “Does God Want Everyone to be Catholic?” tackles the relativistic culture.

“In the world today, where relativism is prevalent, and [the prevalent thought] is that there is no truth and one religion is as good as another, I think asking this question is fair,” said Steve Goffeney, Director of Newman’s Bookshoppe. “As Catholics, we believe Jesus is God, God became man and started a church, the Catholic Church. But many in the world today do not believe this. We are excited to have John Martignoni, who in my opinion, is one of the best speakers in the country to talk about this subject.”

The conference begins at 8:45 a.m. with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul J. Bradley in the Cathedral. Lunch as well as opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration will also be available. Cost for the conference is $35 per person or a group rate (7 people) of $30 each before March 22nd.

Tickets are $40 at the door. For more information or to register, contact Newman’s Bookshoppe, (269) 553-0482 or www.newmansbookshoppe.com.

State-wide young adult gathering in Lansing, Bishop Bradley to celebrate closing Mass

Young adults from around the state are invited to the Michigan Catholic Young Adult Conference in Lansing, located at the Best Western Plus Hotel and Conference Center, 6820 Cedar Street, Lansing on March 28-29.

The event this year will be honored with the presence of two bishops, Bishop Donald Hanchon, Archdiocese of Detroit and our own Bishop Paul Bradley. Keynote speakers include Dr. Timone Davis from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Dr. Dan Keating from Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

The Michigan Catholic Young Adult Conference is for young Catholics from all walks of life to come together annually to grow in their faith and commitment to Christ. All young adults are invited, ages 18-39, married, single, consecrated religious, and those searching. The Conference begins on Friday evening with reflection, Eucharistic Adoration and a social gathering. On Saturday, it continues with insightful keynotes and 10 breakout sessions including a Spanish track. The conference concludes with Saturday evening Mass, celebrated by Bishop Bradley.

More information, including registration can be found at http://www.micyac2.org/; or contact Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139.

The Other Six Days | Don’t Stop Praying

Free your mind from all that troubles you; God will take care of things. — St. Vincent de Paul

He and his fiancée were praying people. They wanted to do things the right way this time, the way God wanted. Before planning a wedding where they could invite all their friends and family to celebrate with them, they needed good jobs. So they prayed about that and put it before the Lord. They also needed stable transportation, and they put that on their prayer list, too. They prayed deliberately, purposefully, and consistently. And it all happened, little by little. First the jobs, then they saved their money for a good car, and next they planned the wedding. They found a minister, hired a caterer, and sent out dozens of invitations.

That’s when the naysayers began. “People like you don’t get married — who do you think you are?” “Why get married and ruin a good thing?” “You think you’re too good for the rest of us.” Hurtful words brought about hurtful reactions, and soon arguments started, and the wedding plans fell apart.

He was at the St. Vincent de Paul shop, trying to put his life back together.

“That’s really sad,” I sympathized.

He shook his head and smiled. “It’s going to be alright. We stopped praying, that’s what happened. Once we received all that we prayed for, we forgot where it came from. We won’t make that mistake again. My fiancée and I are praying again. God will take care of the rest.”

“Are you still engaged?”

“No, but we will be soon. First we have to pray her back from California. And this time we won’t stop praying.”

“And the naysayers?”

“Funny that. When my fiancée left, everyone wanted to come over to my place and hang out. It was as if my unhappiness made them happy. They aren’t welcome in my home anymore. But God is. I won’t ever stop praying again.”

Caring Network seeks volunteers to help young mothers

Caring Network is seeking volunteers to help its young mothers and mothers-to-be. In addition to monetary donations the agency, a Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo program, is in need of crib sheets, infant and toddler socks, and clothing for 0-6 month-old babies. Caring Network families are also in need of transportation or bus tokens to travel to jobs, school, and appointments as they seek to become stable and self-sufficient. Older siblings are in need of diapers, specifically sizes 4-6.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please call Jeannine Boehm at 269-381-1234 or visit www.cedok.org.
Waterliet parish raises funds and sends eyeglasses to sister diocese

On Saturday, January 18, 2014, St. Joseph Parish, Waterliet, held its 4th International Food Faire. This year all proceeds from the dinner benefit the people of Lodwar, Kenya, the sister diocese to the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Pastor, Rev. John Peter Ambrose, mfs, visited Lodwar last October along with Bishop Bradley and Msgr. Michael Hazard. Upon his return Fr. John shared many pictures and stories of generosity in spite of tremendous abject poverty. Parishioners were moved to add the fundraising component to the parish’s annual event. Thanks to the generosity of many people, cooks, sponsors, volunteers, and gourmands, proceeds of more than $8,300 will be sent to Bishop Dominic of Lodwar. In addition, more than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses, donated by parishioners and an eye physician, and a projector are being donated.

Shown in the picture: Father John Peter, mfs, Mary Adams and Jan Conrad Co-chair of the Food Faire with boxes of eyeglasses and projector being sent to the Diocese of Lodwar.

Parishes pair up to begin greater collaboration

Bishop Paul J. Bradley has announced the creation of “Parish Partnerships” as part of a three to five-year Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Under this new pairing parishes are being asked to consider ways and ideas for greater collaboration and resource sharing. For additional information see related cover story and The Bishop’s Perspective on pages 3-4. Look in future editions of The Good News for continued coverage.

Lenten Day of Spiritual Renewal for women

The Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will host a Lenten Day of Spiritual Renewal titled The Joy of Lent on Thursday, March 13th at St. Philip Catholic Church in Battle Creek. Emeritus Bishop James Murray will be the main celebrant and speaker. Attendees will enjoy a spirit filled day learning about the joyful vocation that they received at baptism and how to be the person they were created to be. Check in begins at 8 am, with closing Mass at 2 pm. Cost is $15, including lunch and grants are available. Register with Sue Annis, KDCCW Treasurer at 269-629-5757.

More than 250 high schoolers participate in second annual “The Presence” retreat

“The Presence,” a Eucharist-centered retreat weekend for high schoolers, was held on February 7-9 at Hackett Catholic Central High School for the second year in a row.

The retreat is a joint effort planned by the diocesan Office of Vocations along with the Secretariat for Parish Life and Lay Leadership and St. Ann Parish committee members. This year more than 250 youth participated in the weekend which included featured talks by Fr. Stan Fortuna as well as Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley. Additionally the youth spent time in Adoration and had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

More than 100 adult volunteers and the 13 diocesan seminarians assisted in making the weekend a success. During his homily, Bishop Bradley commended the youth for taking the time to participate in the weekend and put their busy schedules aside.

“I hope and pray that you have come to embrace the reality that you are a precious Child of God,” he said, “that your identity is completely rooted in the fact that you are baptized into Jesus Christ and, through that Baptism, you are intimately united with Him, and with the entire Body of Christ (all of us) forever.”
Ten things to do during Lent

By Kimberly Beaubien

In the days before Lent, many people rack their brains to think of something to “give up” for Lent. But instead of giving up the same old candy or coffee, consider using the traditional three pillars of Lent – Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving – as a guide for your Lenten observance this year. Here are some suggestions:

1. Daily prayer: Set aside 10 to 15 minutes a day for prayer during Lent. There are lots of Lenten prayer books available to help and making prayer a priority will give direction to the rest of your day as well.

2. Stations of the Cross: Many parishes offer this on Lenten lunch hour talks. Try to find some time during Lent to pay him a visit on your way home from work or while out doing errands.

3. Confession: The Church requires all Catholics to go to confession. Fasting and Almsgiving, you will grow closer to God and conversion of heart.

4. Adoration: Jesus is always waiting for us in the tabernacle at church. Try to find some time during Lent to pay him a visit on your way home from work or while out doing errands.

5. Put yourself last: The Beatitudes are hard to live by. Just trying to let someone else go first, take the better seat or have the last word.

6. Be thoughtful: Sometimes being considerate of others is a sacrifice in itself. Be punctual rather than make people wait, smile when you don’t feel like it, or avoid a noise or habit that irritate others.

7. More than meat: While the Church only requires us to give up eating meat on Fridays during Lent, if you substitute by going to Red Lobster you’re missing the point. Keep your Friday meals simple and give the money you save to the poor.

8. De-clutter: St. Basil the Great said “the cloak that you wear is a sacrifice in itself.” Be punctual rather than make people wait, smile when you don’t feel like it, or avoid a noise or habit that irritate others.

9. Volunteer: Round up your family to go volunteer at a soup kitchen or church function. You’ll help those in need and teach your kids a valuable lesson at the same time.

10. Give 10: Tithing ten percent of one’s income is a practice based in Scripture and tradition to acknowledge God’s blessings. Try giving up or cutting back on other items in your budget and give ten percent of your income to the Church and other charities during Lent.

Retreats

March 7: Digital Church Conference, sponsored by the Secretariat for Communications and Public Affairs, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., $75 (includes lunch). Speakers Brandon Vogt, Josh Simmons and Matthew Warner will discuss ways to use the new media to advance the new evangelization.

March 9: St. Joseph, Watervliet: Sunday, March 9, 5-6:15 p.m. — A lively and thought provoking debate format discussing the topic: “Influence of TV Programs and Movies on Raisin Harvest Families. Call the parish office at 463-5470 for more information.

April 12: Last Supper/Seder Meal, St. Philip, Battle Creek: 5:30-9 p.m. in the parish center, Saturday April 12th, Deacon Al Patrick will be our Leader and Deacon Hal Bohan will be our Narrator. Tickets are $35 and are on sale through March 30th. Details and ticket order forms are available at http://stphilipchurch-be.org/ccw.html (click on the BPII Circle icon) or contact Kim Lewis at 269-629-3047. Tickets available Tuesday during Fr. John Fleckenstein’s Lenten Lecture series as well.

Thank You

St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, would like to say “thank you” to all of our Fish Fry volunteers for a lifetime of giving.

We have enjoyed a wonderful tradition of fellowship and giving during Lenten Fridays for many, many years. In the true spirit of stewardship, generations of families have generously given of their talents and treasures to create these blessed weekly events.

Regrettably, due to continuously increasing costs and a few other significant obstacles, we find ourselves unable to continue this year.

We are all so very, very grateful for the time we enjoyed together.

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated and broke bread with us. Our joint experience has blessed us all.

The Time is Now to Plan YOUR Parish Pilgrimage!

The Time is Now to Plan YOUR Parish Pilgrimage!

THE TIME IS NOW... Book your 2015 Parish Pilgrimage to Poland

Pinnacle Pilgrimages will professionally escort your tour! Follow in the footsteps of Blessed John Paul II. Staying in Kraków’s City Center near Medieval Market Square. Visit his Birthplace in Wadowice, see the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, Tour the legendary Wieliczka Salt Mine, Experience Auschwitz & Birkenau, visit the cell that housed St. Maximilian Kolbe and much more!

We offer smaller group excursions. (12 - 20) and design your tour to your specific request.

Call us to discuss Clergy & Host sponsored discounts.

We are all so very, very grateful for the time we enjoyed together.

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated and broke bread with us. Our joint experience has blessed us all.

Join us during Lent as we explore the influence of Mary in Catholic life using the book, Meet Mary, by Mark Maravalle, Group meets on March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 in Father Thelen Hall of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Watervliet at 9:40 a.m. To register call the parish office at 269-463-5470.

Lenten Activities around the Diocese

LENTEN SERIES

Lenten Luncheon Talks

Wednesday, March 5 - April 9, St. Jerome, Battle Creek:

Mass celebrated by Bishop James A. Murray on Wednesday, March 5th (Ash Wednesday) at 10:30 a.m. with the distribution of ashes. A prayer service or Communion service will be held at 11:00 a.m. prior to the other Lenten luncheon talks. The speaker of the day will begin his address at 11:30 a.m. with a light lunch of soup and bread following the address.

MARCH 2014

THE GOOD NEWS | 7
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

“A date to remember”
By George Weigel

Papal approbation being no bad thing, I was delighted to learn that Pope Francis, in a homily a few weeks ago, had suggested that his congregants learn the date of their baptisms and celebrate it — which is precisely what I have been proposing to audiences around the country this past year, when discussing my book, Evangelical Catholicism.

I usually begin by confessing that marking and honoring the date of my baptism hadn’t really occurred to me until a quarter-century or so ago, when I began working with evangelical Protestants on pro-life and religious freedom issues and noted that some of them had an interesting way of introducing themselves at a meeting. Whereas the normal American way of breaking-the-ice is to say, “I’m John Doe and I work at Boeing” or “I’m Jane Smith and I’m an attorney,” these folks would begin rather differently: “I’m John Doe/Jane Smith and I was born again on such-and-such-a-date,” usually in the past 10 or 15 years. Contrarian that I can be on occasion, when things got around the table to me, I’d say, “I’m George Weigel and I was born again on April 29, 1951… at which point I was 12 days old.”

Which got a few interesting conversations going about sacramental regeneration, etc.

Then, when I was working on the biography of John Paul II and was reminded that the first thing he had done on returning to his home parish in Wadowice as pope was to kneel and kiss the baptismal font, memories of those men and women who remembered the day of their rebirth in Christ as a crucial way of identifying themselves came back to me. And I started taking April 29 much more seriously (shocking an usher when, on the 50th anniversary of my baptism, I went to the church where the deed had been done — amidst great caterwauling on my part, I’m reliably informed — and asked him to help me find the baptismal font, which had been moved in a post-conciliar wreckage, so that I could kiss it). Then, in the reading from Acts, Peter tells Cornelius about “the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; and God was with him.”

The very next verse — “And we are witnesses to all that he did” — points out our responsibilities as missionary disciples: we, too, are to “do good” and to help heal “all those who are oppressed by the devil.” As Pope Francis reminds us, we are to be like medical workers in a battlefield hospital after a terrible battle. We are to offer others the possibility of encountering the mercy of God, and the possibility of learning the truths about right-living that the encounter with the divine mercy affords us.

Baptism is baptism-into-mission. Thus a papally-endorsed suggestion from my scribe: learn the date of your baptism (average “yes” response: 3 percent of any group), baptism and the new evangelization, baptism and mission, go together. We are baptized into mission and for mission. Indeed, viewed through the prism of the new evangelization, the day of our baptism is the day of our being commissioned as missionary disciples.

This link between baptism and mission is made explicit in the biblical readings at Mass for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the A cycle, which we are using this liturgical year, the Old Testament reading is from one of the Servant Songs in Isaiah, establishing the link between the baptism of Jesus and the mission of the Servant of the Lord: “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him, and he will bring forth justice to the nations…”

As I explained to my audiences after I asked how many of them knew the date of their baptism (average “yes” response: 3 percent of any group), baptism and the new evangelization, baptism and mission, go together. We are baptized into mission and for mission. Indeed, viewed through the prism of the new evangelization, the day of our baptism is the day of our being commissioned as missionary disciples.

Then, in the reading from Acts, Peter tells Cornelius about “the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; and God was with him.”

The very next verse — “And we are witnesses to all that he did” — points out our responsibilities as missionary disciples: we, too, are to “do good” and to help heal “all those who are oppressed by the devil.” As Pope Francis reminds us, we are to be like medical workers in a battlefield hospital after a terrible battle. We are to offer others the possibility of encountering the mercy of God, and the possibility of learning the truths about right-living that the encounter with the divine mercy affords us.

Baptism is baptism-into-mission. Thus a papally-endorsed suggestion from your scribe: learn the date of your baptism, celebrate it each year — and be re-energized for mission because of that celebration.
“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

Books for your Lenten journey

‘Love and Salt’ offers beautiful, bittersweet story told in letters

“Love and Salt: A Spiritual Friendship Shared in Letters” is a bittersweet book about conversion, faith, love and loss told in beautifully crafted letters between two young women. It is hard not to treat this book, so uncommonly honest, almost with reverence, for within its pages lies such personal and raw emotion that treating it with anything less would feel wrong.

The book is a collection of nearly three years of letters between Amy Andrews, a writer and mathematics teacher at Northwestern University, and Jessica Mesman Griffith, who is also a writer. Andrews and Griffith met each other in a graduate class and formed a friendship over their mutual interest in writing about God.

One Lenten season, as Andrews was preparing to become a Catholic with Griffith as her sponsor, the two promised each other to write a letter for every day of Lent. And so the correspondence began, but did not stop. Their letters became a forum for their spiritual friendship and as a platform for personal disclosures about life, death, faith and doubt.

Unique within its genre, “Love and Salt” simultaneously takes the reader on an examination of Catholicism and spirituality while investing the reader in the characters’ happiness as their lives unfold in the letters. The book is a collection of nearly three years of letters between Amy Andrews and Jessica Mesman Griffith. The book is reviewed by Regina Lordan. (CNS)

Borgess Lee Medical Group hosts breast cancer support group

‘Wings of Hope’ spreads healing process to area women

Judy Saylor first noticed the lump in early 2012. A diagnosis that summer confirmed the 62-year-old Dowagiac resident’s worst fear.

“I had a right breast lumpectomy and lymph node biopsy, followed by chemotherapy and radiation,” Saylor said. “Today, I feel great and there are no signs of the breast cancer. It was, however, a difficult and emotional time for me. I found breast cancer support services in Kalamazoo, but there are many women like myself in our community who need that support as well.”

The need for a support group for breast cancer survivors in Cass County has today become a reality with the creation of a breast cancer support group called the “Wings of Hope.” The Wings of Hope group provides an environment where area women’s hopes, fears and triumphs can be expressed with others who have experienced breast cancer and the similar challenges these women face. It was established by nursing leadership at Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital, including Judy Saylor’s daughter.

“My mom provided the inspiration for Wings of Hope, and the vision and leadership support from Borgess-Lee has helped this support group become a reality,” said Pamela Grosvenor, RN, PeriOperative Unit Supervisor, Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital. “There are many breast cancer patients and their families in Cass County who lack a supportive network of faith, family and friends. The disease is just the first part of the healing process. We want to ensure area women, including those with a diagnosis like my mom, have a venue to turn to for breast cancer education, accurate information, and support with a faith focus.”

The Wings of Hope Breast Cancer Support Group held its first meeting in November with nine women in attendance. Meetings are free, and are held from 5 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Borgess Lee Medical Group in the Donald Lyons Health Center.

“I feel I am very blessed,” Saylor said. “Wings of Hope provides an opportunity to unite with others who are facing a similar diagnosis or course of treatment, and the group creates a network of greatly needed support. No matter the journey, you’ve got to hold on to hope!”

For information on Wings of Hope, please call the Borgess Lee Medical Group at 269-783-2097.

Bibliography


‘Love and Salt’ offers beautiful, bittersweet story told in letters

“Love and Salt: A Spiritual Friendship Shared in Letters” is a bittersweet book about conversion, faith, love and loss told in beautifully crafted letters between two young women. It is hard not to treat this book, so uncommonly honest, almost with reverence, for within its pages lies such personal and raw emotion that treating it with anything less would feel wrong.

The book is a collection of nearly three years of letters between Amy Andrews, a writer and mathematics teacher at Northwestern University, and Jessica Mesman Griffith, who is also a writer. Andrews and Griffith met each other in a graduate class and formed a friendship over their mutual interest in writing about God.

One Lenten season, as Andrews was preparing to become a Catholic with Griffith as her sponsor, the two promised each other to write a letter for every day of Lent. And so the correspondence began, but did not stop. Their letters became a forum for their spiritual friendship and as a platform for personal disclosures about life, death, faith and doubt.

Unique within its genre, “Love and Salt” simultaneously takes the reader on an examination of Catholicism and spirituality while investing the reader in the characters’ happiness as their lives unfold in the letters. The book is a collection of nearly three years of letters between Amy Andrews and Jessica Mesman Griffith. The book is reviewed by Regina Lordan. (CNS)
Creciendo en Virtud en Nuestros Hogares

Por Socorro Truchan

La virtud genera más virtud. Con el tiempo, el esfuerzo y el tiempo que dedicamos a la práctica de la virtud, hace florecer en nosotros espontáneamente las acciones correctas. Los actos nobles y buenos que vivimos deben estar de acuerdo con las actitudes y los intereses positivos de nuestros corazones.

En tiempos en que el mundo está lleno de duda y escepticismo, vemos brillar la belleza de la fe. Una virtud que llena los corazones de esperanza e inspira a vivir la vida con buenas intenciones y sin temor – es la fe en Dios.

¿Cómo podemos crecer en la fe? La respuesta es tan sencilla… solamente hay que pedir que la fe. Pedir la fe a Dios es ya una gracia dada por Dios mismo. Si queremos tener fe en Dios. Rezamos… Oramos… Nos comunicamos con Dios. Hablamos con El. Hablamos en el nombre de Su Hijo, Jesús… y todo lo que padezca en el nombre de Su Hijo, se nos dará…

Recuerden que primero debemos de hablar con su párpado (por lo menos 6 meses antes de la fecha que desean celebrar la boda). También deben participar en la formación que proporciona la parroquia. El encuentro diocesano es un complemento a esa formación.

Claves para Estudiar y Conocer la Biblia. El Apocalipsis #18

Por Fanny Tabares

El libro del Apocalipsis llamado también el libro de la Revelación fue escrito hacia el año 96 d.c. Se cree que el autor fue Juan el evangelizador quien escribió también el libro de los Siete Salmos, segundo y Tercera de Juan.

El libro del Apocalipsis fue escrito en la Isla de Patmos donde fue deportado Juan por causa de su fe: “Yo, Juan, hermano de ustedes, con quienes comparto las pruebas, el reino y la perseverancia en Jesús, me encontraba en la isla de Patmos a causa de la palabra de Dios y de las declaraciones de Jesús” (Ap 1, 9). Este libro de la Biblia se escribió en forma de series cartas dirigidas a siete iglesias (comunidades cristianas) con el fin de consolar a los cristianos perseguidos en el siglo primero por Neron entre los años 64 y 68 y luego por Domiciano en los años 90 a 95, ambos paganos.

El Apocalipsis nos muestra a un Cristo Resucitado que vence sobre el mal, el odio la violencia; es un libro que da esperanza y optimismo esperando la segunda venida de Jesús; es un libro colmado de abundantes imágenes, símbolos y visiones que responde a un género literario usado con frecuencia en esa época aunque para nosotros parezca un poco extraño. Juan usa los números en el Apocalipsis para dar un mensaje. El #7 significa perfección, plenitud; el #3, agua y aire; el #4 representa todo el mundo: norte, sur, oriente, occidente; #5, #6, #12 representan pueblos, 12 tribus, 12 apóstoles, 12 puertas, el #1,000 una gran cantidad. Los persas usaban los números como símbolos.

También en el Antiguo Testamento los profetas usaban figuras literarias y símbolos para dar un mensaje. Veamos este maravilloso texto: “El lobo y el corredor pacen juntos, el león comerá paja como el buey y todos juntos irán a pastar. El pastizal no se hará daño ni estragos en toda mi Montaña Santa, dice el Señor. (Isaías 65:25) (También Isaías 11, 6-9) Y en el Apocalipsis leemos: “Pero uno de los Ancianos me dijo: «No llores: ha triunfado el León de la tribu de Judá, el Retoño de David, y el abrirá el libro y sus siete sellos» y exclama- ban con voz potente: «El Cordero que ha sido inmolado es digno de recibir el poder y la riqueza, la fuerza, el honor y la gloria y la alabanza». No viniendo el Templo en la Ciudad, porque su Templo es el Dios de todos nosotros y el Cordero”. (Apocalipsis 5:5;12, 21:22).

La mejor manera de conocer este maravilloso libro es leyéndolo. Buena suerte en su lectura y reflexión bíblica. Si tienes preguntas o deseo que tratemos algún tema, me puede contactar por correo electrónico: o por teléfono al 269-903-0209.

Fortealeciendo las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #5)

Por Veronica Rodriguez

“Los niños aprenden a fiarse 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).

La actividad para hacer en familia este mes de marzo: el miércoles 5 de marzo se celebra el número de siete con en la Cuaresma. Y es que a la parroquia de Luken. También de nosotros acostumbramos a ir a familia a recibir las cenizas. En ese día también están disponibles las cajitas de arroz en las parroquias. Si no lo hemos hecho, ¿por qué no comenzar una bonita tradición de solidaridad utilizando los platos de arroz?” En ellas, su familia va depositando la cantidad de dinero que desea donar y se devuelven a la parroquia el domingo de Ramos, abril 13. Este dinero es coleccionado para “Catholic Relief Services (CRS)” para ayudar a los pobres en todo el mundo. Se llama “Plato de Arroz” porque si todos colaboramos, de arroz en arroz podemos alimentar a centenares de personas.

Las sugerencias que “Catholic Relief Services” para la familia es: Enfocar la jornada de Cuaresma de tu familia usando tu Plato de Arroz como una pieza central en tu mesa; Rezar en familia usando los recursos del Vínculo Crucis, los siete dolores de María, O Las vidas de los santos; Comparar una comida sencilla, sin carne de todos los ven de 2014). CRS tiene recetas sencillas y Dur a los pobres y vulnerables de todo el mundo en tu diócesis. Para más información sobre el plato de arroz y para ver las recetas y otras sugerencias de CRS pueden ir a www.crsplatodearroz.org.

Informése

Intrínseca

WMU-CAMP: La Universidad de Western Michigan está ofreciendo a los trabajadores del campo migrantes o temporales la oportunidad de estudiar a través del programa de WMU-CAMP. Algunos de los servicios de apoyo son: guía y planificación académica, mentores, exploración de carreras y otros servicios. Para más información y ver si usted califica, comuníquese con Guadalupe Serrano, Coordinador de reclutamiento al teléfono de oficina: 269- 387-3373 o el celular: 269-993-7871.

GED y Clases de Idiomas: La Escuela de Vare Buren Intermediated ofrece clases para obtener el GED para los migrantes y clases de inglés. Si alguna pregunta o deseo que se desarrolle en diferentes lugares de Michigan en uno de estos programas, por favor comuníquese con Pedro Martínez, Van Buren Intermediate School District, Administrador del Apoyo Binacional y Educación del Alumbrado a Migrantes a la Universidad de Western Michigan. La parroquia solamente se encargará de ofrecer el lugar e invitar a la gente.

Enfocam逝o de las Jóvenes Hispánicas/Latinas

Por Veronica Rodriguez

Actividades Juveniles Diocesanas en el 2014: Encontramos Juvenil (Youth Rally), sábado 22 de marzo – Para todos los jóvenes del grado 8 al 12. El lema de este año es “Estar Asombrados” (Be Amazed). La conferencista principal será Jackie Franco. Jackie es una conferencista de tiempo completo, cantautor, y líder del Condado de Orange en California. Desde el 2006 pertenece a la compañía de música de OCP/SpiritandSong.com, quien le ha proporcionado dos discos musicales. Ha estado invitado en el ministerio de la pastoral juvenil desde que se graduó de la secundaria y ahora viaja por todo el mundo hablando con los jóvenes sobre el amor de Dios y liderando liturgias para varios eventos y ministerios. Es amiga de las personas a quien las cosas تستعدي، la comida y el café y también los santos, l-imentos espirituales, obediencia, la playa, los actos, el bolche.

Encuentro Diocesano de la Pastoral Juvenil, sábado 26 de abril – Para todos los jóvenes de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo mayores de 16 años. Nuestro conferencista principal será el Padre René Constanza de la Congregación de los Poultes. Horario: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Para más información sobre cualquiera de estos eventos, puede llamar al 269-903-0197.

NOTAS: Si necesita más información sobre esta agenda, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural e Hispano en 269-903-0197. Para más información acerca de este calendario, contacte la Oficina de Multicultural y Hispánico en 269-903-0197.
Registration still open for “Be Amazed” annual diocesan Youth Rally

It’s not too late to register for the 2014 Diocesan Youth Rally “Be Amazed” on Saturday, March 22 at Northwestern Middle School in Battle Creek. In addition to Mass with Bishop Bradley and a keynote address by national youth speaker and musician Jackie Francois, youth will participate in three different breakout sessions featuring options such as praise and worship music, a confirmation track and a special track for girls.

Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in two different service projects. Donations of personal hygiene products will be collected for Caring Network to benefit homeless youth and adults. Participants may also help make “capes for children battling cancer through a program called “Capes for Kids.”

Cost of the conference after the early bird deadline is $45 per youth and $35 per adult. Each session is open to youth in 8th through 12th grade. Chaperones must meet diocesan guidelines and complete “Protecting God’s Children/VIR-TUS” training and have a background check. Registration packets can be found online at www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org or by pre-registering in helping out, or by contacting Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tnmcanama@dioceseofkalamazoo.org.

Advertise in THE GOOD NEWS

Visit: www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org

Find out how far your marketing dollars will go.

Quest for the Face of Jesus Rembrandt, Ignatius & Our Selves

Saturday, March 15: 9am-12pm

Led by Fr. Peter Feeney, SJ

Ps, doc, and Ecstatic. He uses the fine arts to illustrate how the active imagination is key to understanding both art and scripture.

12-Step Retreat for Women

Friday, April 4-6

Led by Kim A. Jackson, OSU

A time for prayer, reflection, rest and relaxation.

Explore Your Creative Spirit

Saturday, April 5: 3pm-4pm

Led by Jeanne Beaumier, OSU

Come, relax, and practice an art form to nurture your creative and spiritual life.
On March 19, the Congregation of St. Joseph and five parishes in the diocese will celebrate their feast day, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though devotion to St. Joseph did not begin to develop until the Middle Ages, he is now one of the most popular saints in the church with two feast days – March 19 as the husband of Mary and May 1 as St. Joseph the Worker.

Not much is written about St. Joseph in the Gospels. We know that he was married to Mary and the foster father of Jesus. A man with modest means, he provided for the needs of the Holy Family and most importantly, protected them from danger. He is the patron saint of workers and carpenters; because of his association with Jesus and Mary, he is also the patron of the family, the Universal Church and a happy death.

Devotion to St. Joseph is particularly strong in Italian communities. During the Middle Ages, God saved the island of Sicily from a serious drought and resulting famine through the intercession of St. Joseph. Consequently, every year the Italians celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19 with great festivity, traditional foods and a special shrine to St. Joseph called a St. Joseph’s table. After Mass, a three-tiered table is set up to represent the Trinity. A statue of St. Joseph, candles, flowers, especially lilies and any other number of figurines symbolizing St. Joseph, the Holy Family, the Apostles may be included. An abundance of food especially bread, bread shaped as fish, monstrances, chalices, doves, and other pastries, fruits and wine is essential. After the festivities are concluded, tradition calls for the remaining food to be shared with the poor.

Swap your green for red on March 19th, Feast of St. Joseph

On March 19, the Congregation of St. Joseph and five parishes in the diocese will celebrate their feast day, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though devotion to St. Joseph did not begin to develop until the Middle Ages, he is now one of the most popular saints in the church with two feast days – March 19 as the husband of Mary and May 1 as St. Joseph the Worker.

Not much is written about St. Joseph in the Gospels. We know that he was married to Mary and the foster father of Jesus. A man with modest means, he provided for the needs of the Holy Family and most importantly, protected them from danger. He is the patron saint of workers and carpenters; because of his association with Jesus and Mary, he is also the patron of the family, the Universal Church and a happy death.

Devotion to St. Joseph is particularly strong in Italian communities. During the Middle Ages, God saved the island of Sicily from a serious drought and resulting famine through the intercession of St. Joseph. Consequently, every year the Italians celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19 with great festivity, traditional foods and a special shrine to St. Joseph called a St. Joseph’s table. After Mass, a three-tiered table is set up to represent the Trinity. A statue of St. Joseph, candles, flowers, especially lilies and any other number of figurines symbolizing St. Joseph, the Holy Family, the Apostles may be included. An abundance of food especially bread, bread shaped as fish, monstrances, chalices, doves, and other pastries, fruits and wine is essential. After the festivities are concluded, tradition calls for the remaining food to be shared with the poor.

Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth

Tips for living the faith at home!

Pray with your family briefly (one minute) in the morning, at dinner, and before bed. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, asking God’s blessing upon your family. If doing this together is too difficult, do it individually with each of your family members. God bless you all and know of my prayers for each of you! — Tim McNamara

Pope Francis celebrates first anniversary on March 13th

In just a year since his election to the pontificate Pope Francis has captured an international audience and been featured on numerous magazine covers from The New Yorker, Rolling Stone and was TIME magazine’s Man of the Year. The 266th pontiff is the first Jesuit and the first one to choose the name “Francis.” He has a Facebook page and more than a million followers on Twitter. You can even download the “Pope App” to access the latest homilies and watch a webcam view of St. Peter’s Square.

Pope Francis poses for tourist selfies, giving the Vatican a more approachable image.

That’s where great doctors are easy to find

We believe you deserve excellent care no matter where you live. That’s why Borgess offers first-class primary care right in your neighborhood. So no matter what life throws at you, you’ll be ready. To find a doctor nearby who will connect you to all the life-saving specialty care Borgess offers, call (260) 225-3135.

Find a doctor near you
PhysicianFinder.Borgess.com

A member of Ascension Health™