Bishops asked to assess marriage, family life to prepare for synod

By Cindy Wooden and Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops around the world are being asked to take a realistic look at the situation of families under their care and at how effective pastoral and educational programs have been at promoting church teaching on sexuality, marriage and family life.

The preparatory document for the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, which will be held in October 2014, ends with 38 questions about how church teaching is promoted, how well it is accepted and ways in which modern people and societies challenge the Catholic view of marriage and family.

In late October 2013, the synod’s general secretary, Archbishop Lorenzo Baldissieri, sent bishops’ conferences around the world a preparatory document that included a 39-item questionnaire asking about the promotion and acceptance of Catholic teachings on marriage and the family, and cultural and social challenges to those teachings.

Among the topics of the questionnaire were divorce and story continued on page 2

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass December 12

All are invited to the Bilingual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bishop Paul J. Bradley will preside on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Please bring flowers to offer the Virgin Mary. Participants are encouraged to come dressed in traditional clothing from their native country.

A reception will be held immediately following the Mass in the Crowley Center.

Christmas schedule released

St. Augustine Cathedral has released its Christmas liturgical schedule as follows for Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25.

Christmas Vigil
4 p.m. Mass:
Traditional Carols, Organ and Cantor

Children’s Mass
6 p.m. Mass:
Traditional Carols, St. Augustine Children’s Choir

Midnight Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley
Solemn Pontifical Liturgy
music begins at 11:30 p.m., Traditional Carols, Cathedral Choir with Brass

The Nativity of Our Lord
9:30 a.m. Mass, Traditional Carols, Organ and Cantor

Bishop Emeritus James A. Murray
11:30 a.m. Mass with, Solemn Liturgy of Christmas Day, Cathedral Choir

Spreading the gospel online: one day workshop equips pastoral leaders in the new media

To tweet or post; blog or pin. The new media brings an entire new language and can leave online novices overwhelmed. To help pastoral leaders navigate the new media the diocese is bringing a nationally known workshop to Kalamazoo’s Lawrence Education Center on March 7, 2014. The one-day workshop, Digital Church Conference, is lead by leading new media experts including Brandon Vogt, popular author, blogger and online content manager for Fr. Robert Barron’s Word on Fire ministry; Matt Warner, founder of Flocknote; and Josh Simmons, founder of eCatholic websites.

During the day the presenters will show how to harness the new media platforms from Facebook to Twitter to websites and how to use those to enhance ministries. Sessions will explore topics such as the new evangelization; best practices for building engaging websites; and a 30-minutes media makeover.

Diocesan Executive Director Vicki Cessna recently attended the conference when it was hosted by the Diocese of Rockford this past October.

“Bringing the conference to Kalamazoo is a way to inspire anyone in ministry or any Catholic that wants to learn more about how to utilize new media to help advance the mission of the new evangelization,” she said. “Saints-in-the-making such as Bishop Fulton Sheen were pioneers in using what was then ‘new media’ to help spread the gospel message. We have an opportunity to reclaim our pioneer status by learning how to reach out in new and innovative ways.”

And anyone who thinks tweeting, posting, pinning are all fads consider this: Pope Francis has more than 10 million followers on Twitter and statistics recently showed he’s the most talked about person on the internet. Digital media is here to stay. The conference is designed to help parishes, lay ministers and the faithful understand how to use online resources.

Cost of the conference is being underwritten by a grant and participant fee is only $60.

To register visit www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org or contact 269-903-0163.
The siren call of Advent

“I can’t get to my house. I don’t even know if I have a house.”

It wasn’t until my brother Michael hurled those words at us as he frantically raced through my folk’s house that my mother and I knew something dreadful had happened.

On November 17 a record-breaking massive tornado ripped through my hometown of Washington, Ill., while my mom and I sat nonchalantly on the basement couch wondering why we couldn’t get the television to work. Moments after the sirens stopped, a beloved neighbor came by to alert us that the power was out as I peered out the kitchen windows marveling at God’s tapestry of dancing clouds and brilliant colors dancing across the sky. We wouldn’t know until my brother’s frantic announcement that the tornado had literally wiped out entire neighborhoods.

Moments after the reality sunk in we took to the streets. Cars were stopped as hundreds of people, just leaving Sunday church services, were trying to get across town. I walked with my brother Michael and his canine companion, Midas, toward my brother Tony’s house seeking assurance that he was safe. On our way there we spotted Tony’s car on the road and called out his name. It was in that moment of seeing my brother safe and sound that my heart was calmed and I knew no matter what shape Michael’s house was in, everything would be okay.

Sadly crises happen on a daily basis. Typhoons decimate countries; violent people claim innocent lives; and tornadoes leave a path of destruction. It’s in those moments that time seems to stand still and in the aftermath we are reminded about our true treasures. Not the stuff we’ve accumulated but our connection to the lives of those we love.

Unlike the screech and ominous sound of a tornado siren, the sound of Advent (the word literally means “coming”) is quiet and warmer like the lightening of the first candle on the wreath. However the meaning behind both is similar in the charge we are given: prepare.

During this festive holiday season it’s common to fill our calendars with festivities and our free time with searching for the perfect gift. In the midst of busyness we can lose sight of what’s coming.

The weeks of Advent are a gift to us calling us to still our hearts and focus on what one of my hometown friends called the three “i’s”: faith, family and friends.

Miraculously my brother’s house sustained minimal damage though the neighborhood mere yards away is leveled. During this holy season my beloved hometown is rebuilding. An onslaught of assistance and generosity has poured in from far and wide as people connect with their own family and friends.

The mission of the Good News, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to prepare the Savior’s Coming. That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need. Prepare the Savior’s Coming.

Pope Francis December Intentions

Victimized Children. That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need. Prepare the Savior’s Coming.

Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of The Good News

The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

P robably the best-known publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, The Good News is the official newspaper of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, homilies, etc., issued under this signature are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinion columns, features and letters to the editor which appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by The Good News or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

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NOTICE: The February edition will be distributed prior to Lenten feasts February 1 & 2.

www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org

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 mission of The Good News, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to develop as mature, well informed Catholics and to deepen their commitment to, and relationship with, the Lord, their Catholic faith and their Church.
THE BISHOP’S PERSPECTIVE

Tumsifu Yesz Kristo! Daima Na Mile le
Praised be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever

Everywhere I went during my more than two-week pastoral visit to our “sister Diocese,” the Diocese of Lodwar in the East African country of Kenya, I was greeted with this lovely phrase in Swahili: “Tumsifu Yesz Kristo, Daima Na Mile le,” or as we know it in English: “Praised be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever.”

In mid-October, accompanied by Msgr. Michael Hazzard, Vicar General for the diocese and pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, along with Fr. John Peter Ambrose, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet, we visited Bishop Dominic Kimengich, at his invitation to further strengthen our bond as “sister” dioceses. And while our trip afforded us the life-time opportunity to experience a culture and a way of life completely different than our own, it became clear that there were more similarities to unite us than there were differences to divide us. Both our dioceses are relatively “young” (Kalamazoo founded in 1971; Lodwar in 1976); the patron saint for both our dioceses is the great St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; and both of our dioceses are united in our shared mission: to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all our people.

It was an enriching experience to spend some quality time in, and learn a bit about, the traditions and customs of our sisters and brothers in the faith who live in Lodwar. As already mentioned, I was deeply inspired by the customary way that they greeted one another: “Tumsifu Yesz Kristo” (“Praised be Jesus Christ), with the ready response: “Daima Na Mile le” (Now and forever). That has been a traditional Catholic greeting since the days of St. Augustine.

Could I suggest that as we begin this new Church Year with the Season of Advent, that we might consider making a kind of “new year’s resolution” and begin that same practice of greeting one another with that same beautiful greeting of praise?

By the time you read this we will have ended another Church year, and also officially concluded the Year of Faith. I hope that we have turned our hearts to embrace this important season of waiting — waiting for the celebration of the Christ Child at Christmas, just as the whole world did more than 2,000 years ago, while at the same time waiting for His triumphant return at the end of all time to bring all of us to the glory of His Father in Heaven.

I have to admit that in spite of the wonderful, enriching, inspiring and life-changing experience that I was blessed and honored to receive during my pastoral visit to the Diocese of Lodwar, I am very grateful to be back home in Southwest Michigan. However, I realize that I am now forever changed; my journey home in Southwest Michigan. However, I realize that I am now forever changed; my journey to Lodwar, some 8,000 miles away, connects me in a way like never before to the universality of the Church. Whether we spend some time in these late fall days warming ourselves by a fire in the comfort of our homes, or whether the Turkana people spend time wandering the desert in northern Kenya looking desperately for water, we are all connected during this holy season as we continue “waiting in joyful hope” for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent is about waiting. Advent is about preparation. We need to embrace both of these; we can learn valuable lessons from our sisters and brothers in Africa. They may wait for days to celebrate a holiday, but despite their incredible challenges, the people of Lodwar are filled with a strong deep and a deep joy that is inspiring, which I have never seen before.

Each time we journeyed to a new town or settlement throughout the Diocese of Lodwar, we were greeted with much fanfare. The lovely people expressed true joy at our visit, singing and dancing and gifting us with the best they had — hand-made utensils, beads, and even goats — but most importantly, their love.

These few weeks of the Advent season give us a wonderful opportunity to recapture our own deep joy and strong faith. This is the time not only to prepare our hearts well for the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world on Christmas, but it is also the time for us to think about the ways that we need to renew and deepen our relationship with Christ and His Church.

So where do we start? How do we avoid the temptation to be engulfed in the commercialism of the season; how can we focus on the beauty of the precious gift of God’s only-begotten Son coming to us? I would suggest, my dear sisters and brothers, that we should center our preparations on the “three p’s” — prayer, penance and presence.

Prayer — Living our faith is not complete without a healthy prayer life. Advent is a good time to begin a new prayer custom or renew an old tradition. Consider having an Advent prayer service with family and friends each Sunday. Use a daily reflection to begin each day in His Word. There are many little books available and if you’re a “tekkie” you can even find an “App” or have daily reflections sent to you. Pray for your loved ones, pray for those in need and pray for those who have yet to hear the saving Good News of Jesus Christ.

Penance — Part of preparation is cleaning. We prepare our homes for festive celebrations, donning the Christmas decorations and various reminders of the season. In much the same way we need to pay the same attention to cleaning our souls. Take advantage of the beautiful life-giving Sacrament of Reconciliation. These Advent days of preparation are a great time to go to Confession because anytime we do, we encounter the gracious and merciful gift of

Continued on page 4

LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

Tumsifu Yesz Kristo! Daima Na Mile le
¡Alabado sea Jesucristo Ahora y por siempre!

Dondequiera que estuve durante mis dos semanas de visita pastoral a nuestra “Diócesis hermana”, la diócesis de Lodwar, en el país de Africa oriental de Kenia, me saludaron con esta hermosa frase en Swahili: “Tumsifu Yesz Kristo, Daima Na Mile le,” como lo conocemos en español: “Alabado sea Jesucristo, ahora y por siempre.”

A mediados de octubre, acompañado por Mons. Michael Hazzard, Vicario General de la diócesis y párroco de la Parroquia de San José, Kalamazoo, junto con el Padre John Peter Ambrose, pastor de la Parroquia de San José, Watervliet, visitamos al Obispo Dominic Kimengich, tras su invitación a fortalecer aún más nuestros lazos como diócesis “hermanas”.

Y mientras que nuestro viaje nos dio la oportunidad única de experimentar una cultura y una forma de vida completamente diferente a la nuestra, se hizo evidente que había más similitudes que las que nos unen que diferencias para dividirnos. Ambas diócesis son relativamente “jóvenes” (Kalamazoo fundada en 1971; Lodwar en 1976), el santo patrón para ambas diócesis es el gran San Juan, obispo y doctor de la Iglesia, y ambas diócesis están unidas en nuestra misión compartida: llevar el Evangelio de Jesucristo a todas las personas.

Fue una experiencia enriquecedora en la cual pasó un tiempo valioso, y aprender un poco acerca de la fe y las costumbres de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en la fe que viven en Lodwar. Como ya he dicho, fui profundamente inspirado en la forma habitual en que se saludaban unos a otros: “Tumsifu Yesz Kristo” (Alabado sea Jesucristo), con la respuesta preparada: “Daima Na Mile le” (Ahora y por siempre), que ha sido un saludo católico tradicional desde los tiempos de San Agustín. ¿Podría sugerir que al comenzar este nuevo año litúrgico, a cada tiempo de Adviento, que pudieramos considerar hacer una especie de “resolución de año nuevo” y comenzar esa misma práctica de saludarnos unos a otros con ese mismo hermoso saludo de alabanza?

Para el momento en que ustedes lean esto habremos terminado otro año eclesial, y también oficialmente concluido el Año de la fe. Espero que hemos convertido nuestro corazón para abrazar esta importante temporada de espera — esperando la celebración de el Niño Jesús en Navidad, al igual que todo el mundo lo hace hace más de 2,000 años, mientras que al mismo tiempo esperando su regreso triunfal al final de todos los tiempos para llevarnos a todas a la gloria de su Padre en el Cielo.

Tengo que admitir que, a pesar de las experiencias maravillosas, enriquecedoras, inspiradora y valiosas que adquirí durante mi visita pastoral a la diócesis de Lodwar, estoy muy agradecido de estar de regreso en casa en el suroeste de Michigan. Sin embargo, me doy cuenta de que ahora estoy cambiado para siempre, mi viaje a Lodwar, a unos 8,000 kilómetros de distancia, me conecta de una manera como nunca antes a la universalidad de la fe. Si los turcos visita algún tiempo en estos días finales de otoño, siempre se sentirán aliviados por la calidez y la cercanía de su hogar, y la gente de Turkana pasa tiempo caminando por el desierto en el norte de Kenia, buscando desesperadamente agua, todos estamos conectados en este tiempo santo al seguir “esperando en gozosa esperanza” la venida de nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo.

Advierto es esperar. Advierto es preparación. Necesitamos acogerlos a los dos, podemos aprender lecciones valiosas de nuestras hermanas y hermanos en África. Ellos puede que “esperen” días para encontrar las necesidades básicas de la vida — alimentos, agua — que en su mayor parte, nosotros simplemente damos por sentado. Pero a pesar de sus increíbles retos, el pueblo de Lodwar está lleno de una fe fuerte y una alegría profunda inspiradora, que nunca he visto antes.

Cada vez que viajamos a una nueva ciudad o asentamiento a través de la diócesis de Lodwar, fuimos recibidos con mucho “bombo y platillo.” “Las personas encantadoras expresaban verdadera alegría por nuestra visita, cantando y bailando y besándonos con lo mejor que tenían a mano — utensilios hechos a mano, cuentas, e incluso cabras — pero lo más importante, su amor.

Estas pocas semanas de la temporada de Adviento nos dan una maravillosa oportunidad de recuperar nuestra propia profunda alegría y fe fuerte. Este es el momento no sólo para preparar bien nuestros corazones para la celebración de la venida de Cristo al mundo en Navidad, pero también es el momento de que pensemos acerca de las maneras que tenemos que renovar y profundizar nuestra relación con Cristo y Su Iglesia.

Así que ¿por dónde empezamos? ¿Cómo podemos evitar la tentación de ser envueltos en la comercialización de la temporada? ¿Cómo podemos centramos en la belleza del regalo precioso del unigénito Hijo de Dios que viene a nosotros? Yo sugeriría, mis queridas hermanas y hermanos, que deberíamos centrarnos en nuestras preparativos en las “tres P”: la oración (prayer), penitencia y presencia.

Oración (Prayer) — Vivir nuestra fe no es una cosa que se realiza en un ambiente comercial, sino que es un buen momento para comenzar una nueva costumbre de oración o renovar una vieja tradición. Consideren la posibilidad de tener un servicio de oración de Adviento con familiares y amigos cada domingo. Utilicen una reflexión diaria para comenzar cada día en Su Palabra. Hay muchos pequeños libros disponibles y si ustedes son un “tekkie” incluso pueden encontrar aplicaciones o tener reflexiones diarias enviadas a ustedes. Oren por sus hermanos en otros países, oren por los necesitados y oren por las personas que todavía tienen que escuchar la Buena Noticia salvadora de Jesucristo.

Penitencia — Parte de la preparación es la limpia. Preparamos nuestros hogares para las celebraciones festivas, poniendo decoraciones Navideñas y diversos recordatorios de la temporada. De la misma manera tenemos que prestar la misma atención a la limpieza de nuestras almas. Tomen ventaja del hermoso sacramento, dador de vida, de la Reconciliación.
Search begins for longest married couples

The fourth annual search is on for the longest married couple in the United States. For four years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has sponsored the project recognizing couples for their long marriages.

Three years ago Marshall and Winnie Kuykendall from Lordsburg, New Mexico were honored for 82 years of marriage, while two years ago Wilbur and Theresa Faiss of Las Vegas were honored for 78 years of marriage. This year John and Ann Betar of Fairfield, Conn., were honored for 80 years of marriage. Each year 50 state winners are recognized for their longest marriages. To date more than 900 couples have been nominated for the honors during the last three years. Winners are selected solely from nominations submitted. The national winners are recognized during Valentine’s Week, which coincides with World Marriage Day, the second Sunday of February.

An Alumni Group was established for previous national and state winners. Previous state winners can vie for the national title, but they also are now considered members of the alumni of longest married couples in their individual states. This allows for new couples to be recognized for both state and national recognition.

“What a joy and inspiration it is to recognize a husband and wife who have been married for many, many years,” explained Dick and Diane Baumbach and Rev. Dick Morse, the coordinators for the special project.

Nominations, which are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation, may be submitted by email, postal mail or phone.

To nominate a couple, send the name of the couple, their wedding date and current address plus a contact phone number or email address of the nominating person to: dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net, or Dick and Diane Baumbach 8934 Puerto Del Rio Drive Suite 204, Cape Canaveral, Fl 32920, or call 321-613-5180. Nominations must be received by January 19th, 2014.

Providing warmth in times of need:

Diocesan Heating Assistance Program

The Diocesan Heating Assistance Program (DHAP) will operate from Monday, January 10, 2014 through Wednesday, March 26, 2014 or until funds are exhausted. If you know of someone needing heating assistance, call your parish or mission. Heating Assistance Volunteers will screen all those who come in for assistance.

The maximum amount of assistance is $200 per household per heating assistance season. Anyone still wishing to make a contribution to the 2013-2014 Diocesan Heating Assistance Program may send a check (payable to the Diocese of Kalamazoo / Memo: DHAP), 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3760. If you have questions about the program, please contact Deacon Ed Felts at HeatingAssistance@dioceseofkalamazoo.org or Kerry Williams at kerrywilliams@ccdok.org.

May God bless all those who contribute and those who are in need.

Pastor and pilgrims journey to Rome

Fr. Mark Vyverman and 23 pilgrims from St. Ann, Augusta, Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers and St. Joseph, Battle Creek traveled to Rome, Italy this past fall. During the 10-day pilgrimage the group visited the four major Basilicas as well as many other churches and holy sites in the ancient city. The pilgrims celebrated Sunday Mass with Pope Francis as well as attending the Wednesday audience with our Holy Father. In addition they also had the opportunity to visit Rev. Ted Martin who is in his last year of Canon Law studies and Msgr. Michael Osborn who is currently serving in the office for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.
Forme former jazz musician turned priest to headline high school retreat
The Presence returns to Hackett February 7-9

Last year close to 150 high schoolers spent a weekend participating in the diocese first Eucharistic-centered retreat entitled, “The Presence.” This year the event returns to Hackett Catholic Central High School on February 7th through February 9th.

The retreat leader is Rev. Stan Fortuna, one of the eight founding members of the Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal established in the Archdiocese of New York. Fr. Fortuna was a widely-accomplished jazz musician prior to his conversion and served with Lennie Tristana often referred to as the “father of improvisational jazz.”

An international speaker, Fr. Fortuna has been a featured presenter at numerous Franciscan youth conferences and has numerous appearances to his credit on the EWTN program, “Life on the Rock.” He frequently performs and lectures in the USA and countries in Europe and Africa.

His work and music have garnered articles in a number of publications including the US hip hop magazine “XXL” and in the New York Press; he has also appeared on Entertainment Tonight Canada and MuchMusic’s “Popoganda.”

Fr. Fortuna has released over 18 CDs in a variety of musical genres. His latest rap CD is Sacro Song 3: The Completion of the Trilogy, and “Seraphic Wanderer”, containing a variety of musical styles and released in 2009, is dedicated to his mother.

He has also released a jazz CD through Universal Music with his trio, Scola Tristano. He has written three books, U Got 2 Believe, U Got 2 Pray and U Got 2 Love — all published by OSV.

Musical talent “Full Armor” will also be an integral part of the retreat. Full Armor formed over seven years ago when the band was asked to lead music for a new youth Mass in their hometown of Middletown, NY. Over time, the band slowly began to receive invites participate in other Christian/Catholic ministry events in their region. All of their hard work and determination paid off in 2008 when they were asked to perform for Pope Benedict XVI’s youth rally in New York City in front of 25,000 young people.

Registration for the retreat is $70 which includes all meals. For more information visit www.thepresencekalamazoo.org or contact 269-903-0208.

Following this, the team members completed the Landings training program and participated in a retreat. St. Philip Parish obtained certification from Landings and is listed as a participating parish on their website.

“Welcome Home,” the name selected for the St. Philip ministry, is currently planning its third round of meetings. Marketing activities will begin in Advent to benefit from increased Mass attendance. Additionally, this is a time when many inactive Catholics feel drawn back to the Church by warm memories of attending Mass with family members.

The group has a Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/welcomehomecatholics) and group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/welcomehomephilip), in addition to a blog (http://landingsbc.com/).

Teens prepare for national youth conference

A group of teens discuss a questionnaire at a recent planning meeting prior to the National Catholic Youth Conference which was held in Indianapolis November 21 - 24. The diocese hosted a group of close to 100 which included youth, chaperones and youth ministry leaders. Visit our diocesan website for full coverage www.dioce-seofkalamazoo.org.

St. Vincent once noted that the poor suffer, not so much from lack of charity, but from lack of organized charity. He saw that good people can be a better help to those in need when they work together, than when they distribute their alms individually.

A perfect example of this is the Kalamazoo Promise, the scholarship funded by seven anonymous donors, which pays the college tuition for every graduate of the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Seven people, working together, have been changing lives in the entire town. Last week, I met a mother of one of the promise graduates, and I asked her how her daughter used the money.

Mom looked up, adjusted her glasses, and sighed. “At first, she came home from college every night and threw her backpack in the corner, and whined, ‘College is too hard! I can’t do all this work!’ I looked at her and said, ‘Maybe if you took the books out of backpack, the work would be easier to do.’ But she wasn’t listening to me. So I decided, instead of talk, I would walk the walk. I signed up for classes myself. When my daughter saw me studying every night, and passing tests, and writing papers, she took notice. She decided she wasn’t going to let her mother show her up. Now she’s a medical technician, and she keeps telling me she needs more education to advance in her profession.”

“I looked in awe at this mom, and asked, ‘And you?’”

“I’ll graduate next spring.”

In 2013, St. Vincent de Paul in Detroit will again be sharing a statewide grant for heating assistance. Last year the LEAP (Low-income Energy Assistance Program) paid 85 families, $115,359 in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Families who are 200 percent below the poverty line are eligible if their bill is between $250-$3,500, with a maximum assistance of $3,000. The fund pays electric, gas, propane, and heating oil. We need to distribute the money between January and May. If you know of a family with a high energy bill, please contact your parish’s St. Vincent de Paul conference, or the Council President, Scott Peterson, sassa4071@yahoo.com. God can do wonders if we work together, so please, don’t hesitate to join us.

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CONGREGATION OF ST. JOSEPH

A sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph.
Wahmhoff Farms owners donate Christmas trees to military families

By Kim Beaubien

Military families around the world will receive a free Christmas tree this year thanks to growers like Dan Wahmhoff, owner of Wahmhoff Farms in Gobles and parishioner at St. Jude Parish. In 2005, the National Christmas Tree Association started a program called Trees for Troops which coordinates shipments to military families overseas and in the United States.

Wahmhoff, who has served on the Association’s board, heard about the project and signed up.

“I saw it as an opportunity to give back and say thank you to the military for the sacrifices they make for us,” said Wahmhoff. “Being separated from family at Christmas time can be really hard. With the challenges military families face, we really wanted to do something for them.”

In Gobles, Wahmhoff Farms hosts a loading event each year where other growers bring their trees to the farm and volunteers help load all the trees onto trucks. Military personnel in uniform and state representatives often come, watching and helping load the trees.

“This year, the loading event will take place on Monday, December 9th at 10 a.m. at Wahmhoff Farms, 23090 M-40 Hwy, Gobles. The public is welcome to come and watch or help out. For more information, call 269-628-4308. You are invited to the military for the sacrifices they make for us,” said Wahmhoff. “Being separated from family at Christmas time can be really hard. With the challenges military families face, we really wanted to do something for them.”

In Michigan, approximately 12 to 15 growers contribute to the Trees for Troops program and FedEx has partnered with the program to deliver the trees for free. Individuals can also help by donating money to send a tree. Last year, 1,000 trees were donated from Michigan alone.

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龌龊military personnel in uniform and state representatives often come, watching and helping load the trees.

“The public is welcome to come and watch or help out. For more information, call 269-628-4308. You are invited to the military for the sacrifices they make for us,” said Wahmhoff. “Being separated from family at Christmas time can be really hard. With the challenges military families face, we really wanted to do something for them.”

In Michigan, approximately 12 to 15 growers contribute to the Trees for Troops program and FedEx has partnered with the program to deliver the trees for free. Individuals can also help by donating money to send a tree. Last year, 1,000 trees were donated.

In Gobles, Wahmhoff Farms has partnered with the program to deliver the trees for free. Individuals can also help by donating money to send a tree. Last year, 1,000 trees were donated from Michigan alone.

December 22 – O King (Rex) of the gentiles, yea, and the desire thereof, the Cornerstone that maketh both one: come and save man, whom Thou hast made out of the slime of the earth.

December 23 – O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the expectation of all nations and their Salvation: come and save us, O Lord our God. The antiphon increases daily in intensity, calling for the coming of the Messiah. The titles move from Wisdom at the beginning of time, through salvation history to Emmanuel, “God with us,” on December 23rd. The first letter of each Messianic title in Latin (Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia) spells out an acrostic backwards: ERO CROS which means “I will come tomorrow.” There are many ways to incorporate this tradition into family life. For instance, you could wait until December 17th to begin Christmas decorating and then add just a little bit each night with your family while singing “O come, O come Emmanuel” which is a hymn based on the O Antiphons. Finish decorating on Christmas Eve. Alternatively, you could prepare an O Antiphon House: a cardboard box with nine hinged windows (similar to an Advent calendar) with each window hiding a symbol for one of the antiphons, plus two extra for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

At the end of family evening prayers, you could read or sing the verse for the O Antiphon that day and then open the appropriate window. By Christmas day, “you’ll be prepared to welcome the Christ Child into your home.”

Masterpiece painting by Caravaggio on loan to Detroit Institute of Arts

Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy on view until January 13

(Detroit) – Visitors to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) have the rare opportunity to see an early masterpiece by Caravaggio (Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio) on loan from the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Conn., until January 13. Caravaggio’s Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy is displayed next to the DIA’s own Caravaggio painting, Martha and Mary Magdalene, also considered one of his finest masterpieces. These two 16th-century paintings demonstrate Caravaggio’s proficient rendering of form and his deep spiritual and emotional sense of the Christian faith.

“Caravaggio influenced many painters from other European countries who came to Rome to learn the master’s dramatic and realistic style,” said Salvador Salort-Pons, DIA executive director, Collection Strategies and Information. “Visitors will be able to explore two of the best Caravaggios in America side by side in the same gallery displaying paintings by his most celebrated followers, including Artemisia and Orazio Gentileschi, Bartolomeo Manfredi, Valentin de Boulogne, Dirck van Baburen and Matthias Stomer, among many others.”

Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy is probably the first of all the religious scenes that Caravaggio maintained, a genre for which he is famous. The Life of Saint Francis, written in 1262 by Saint Bonaventure, inspired this painting. Bonaventure recounts that Saint Francis, in the company of Brother Leon, had gone to pray at the Mount La Verna, near Florence. While praying, Francis had a vision of a crucified sermon – onto Saint Francis’ body.

Salvator Mundi is a time of anticipation, preparing for the coming of Christ. One great tradition that expresses this excitement is the O Antiphons which begin on December 17. Each antiphon is prayed during the evening prayer of the chaplet, before the Magnificat, and also during the Alleluia verse before the Gospel reading at Mass.

Where to find the O Antiphons

The family resource website Catholicicing offers printable O’Antiphon pages and crafts suitable for the family. Visit them at www.catholicicing.com and search “O Antiphons.”

To order the Alleluia verse before the Gospel

The Archdiocese of Detroit offers an acrostic method of playing the O Antiphons each evening for the coming of Christ. One great tradition that expresses this excitement is the O Antiphons which begin on December 17. Each antiphon is prayed during the evening prayer of the chaplet, before the Magnificat, and also during the Alleluia verse before the Gospel reading at Mass.

December 17 – O Wisdom (Sapiencia), that proceedeth from the mouth of the Most High, Reaching from end to end mightily, and sweetly disposing all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18 – O Lord (Adonai) and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law on Sinai: come and redeem us by Thy outstretched arm.

December 19 – O Root (Radix) of Jesse, Who standest as the Ensign of the people, before Whom kings shall not open their lips; to Whom the Gentiles shall pray: come and deliver us, tarry now no more.

December 20 – O Key (Clavis) of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; Who openest, and no man shuttest, Who shuttest, and no man openeth: come and lead the captive from the prison house, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 21 – O Dawn (Oriens) of the East, Splendor of the eternal Light, and Sun of justice: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.

We will be able to explore two of the best Caravaggios in America side by side in the same gallery displaying paintings by his most celebrated followers, including Artemisia and Orazio Gentileschi, Bartolomeo Manfredi, Valentin de Boulogne, Dirck van Baburen and Matthias Stomer, among many others.”

Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy is probably the first of all the religious scenes that Caravaggio maintained, a genre for which he is famous. The Life of Saint Francis, written in 1262 by Saint Bonaventure, inspired this painting. Bonaventure recounts that Saint Francis, in the company of Brother Leon, had gone to pray at the Mount La Verna, near Florence. While praying, Francis had a vision of a crucified seraph (a winged celestial being) that imprinted the stigmata — five wounds inflicted on Christ during the crucifixion — onto Saint Francis’ body.
For most Southwest Michiganders October means trips to apple orchard, getting ready for Halloween and watching the World Series. Halfway around the world, close to 8,000 miles away, for Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Msgr. Michael Hazard and Rev. John Peter Ambrose, MSFS, October meant trips through the dessert, spying giraffes and witnessing a vibrant Catholic Church alive our sister diocese located in the Eastern African country of Kenya.

During the two-week visit hosted by Bishop Dominic Kimengich, bishop of Lodwar, the three priests visited Catholic schools, participated in the Sacrament of Confirmation, met with the diocesan staff to brainstorm ways the two dioceses can connect and truly felt the universality of the Church.

“While life in that part of the world is very different than ours here in the United States, what was truly wonderful for me to see and experience was the vitality, the strength and the impact that our faith has in the lives of our Catholic sisters and brothers in the Church there,” said Bishop Bradley.

“In addition, what was so impressive for me to witness first hand, beyond the spiritual and sacramental impact that the Church has for those who come to Church for Mass, is the role that the Church plays in bringing essential, basic, human needs to all the people there: food, water, health care, and social services of every kind.”

The two dioceses also share many similarities including the same diocesan patron saint, Church doctor St. Augustine of Hippo, and are approximately the same age, the Diocese of Kalamazoo being founded in 1971 and the Diocese of Lodwar being founded in 1976.

Bishop Bradley chronicled his “life-changing” journey in a blog: www.sisterdiocese.blogspot.com. On the last day he expanded on the impact the trip has had on him.

“I am returning home inspired, enlightened, enriched, and encouraged by what I have seen and experienced,” he wrote. “After these 10 days, visiting our sister diocese and her Shepherd, Bishop Dominic Kimengich, I feel the bond that exists between us in the faith that unites us. After these 10 days, being away from our homeland, realizing how much has been given to us, I ask God to bless me, and all of us, to be responsible and faithful stewards, as we give thanks and praise to our God by living together as His loving family — as God has intended from the beginning of time.”

Look for continued updates on the diocesan website and in future editions of The Good News for updates on our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Lodwar.
Childhood trauma injures the body as well as the mind and spirit

By Sharon Froom

Childhood trauma can be extremely destructive, leaving survivors feeling hopeless and helpless. They often struggle with poor self-esteem and disillusionment about life in general. Survivors of childhood trauma also are inclined to experience a disproportionate number of health problems, often feeling old before their time.

When humans encounter traumatic situations our bodies are designed to protect us. This protective response is commonly referred to as the fight or flight response. It involves a cascade of physical events. Blood vessels constrict, muscles tense, stress hormones spill into the bloodstream, gastric juices spill into the gut, and perspiration increases. This cluster of events allows us to take action for protection in ways that defy our ordinary level of functioning. We’ve all heard accounts of a parent committing a supernatural feat to save their child, acts such as lifting a car off a pinned child. This is the fight or flight response in action.

When children experience trauma, particularly if the threatening situation is longstanding, they can get stuck in the fight or flight response. Because life in general feels threatening they are constantly in a state of vigilance. What is referred to as a temporary physiological response to an emergency becomes their norm. What is meant to arm them in dangerous situations now becomes physically destructive, triggering inflammation and compromising the immune system. This makes trauma survivors particularly vulnerable to physical disorders such as irritable bowel, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, cardiovascular problems, and allergies. It can also compromise their bodies’ ability to fight diseases, everything from the common cold to cancer.

The good news is this is reversible. Just as a hostile environment sets in motion a destructive process, a supportive environment can promote healing. And adult survivors need not wait passively for the positive environment to occur. They can in large measure create it for themselves. It starts with learning how to interrupt the bodies’ stress response with strategies that include, among others: stretching, breathing, meditation, and relaxation techniques. It can also compromise their bodies’ ability to fight diseases, everything from the common cold to cancer.

New groups begin February 2014

*in English

Mornings: 9:30 a.m. – noon
Evenings: 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Mondays: February 10, 17, 24
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 29
(Sat) 31, April 7

Registration:
contact Sharon Froom
269-381-8917 (ext. 222)

ADVENT
A journey of anticipation

By Denise Blossert

My due date was the 26th of December, but by Christmas Eve 1985, I was ready to be done with it. I stretched out on the bed and reluctantly prepared for another night of leg cramps and propped pillows. The Christmas presents were wrapped and ready. The Christmas cookies decorated. The overnight hospital bag was packed and waiting in the corner. My sister had arrived and was ready to look after my daughter.

Still, nothing happened.

The first pain hit at 9:30 PM. I knew immediately that I had skipped early labor and entered active labor. At the hospital, the nurse called it precipitate delivery. There would be no time for pain medicine. I was disappointed, but at least something was happening. I wouldn’t be pregnant forever.

I looked at the clock and wondered if our baby’s birthday would be Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Then the nurse checked the heartbeat and the questions about pain medicine and possible arrival time turned into terrible silence.

Something was wrong. The nurse wasn’t smiling. She just kept moving the obstetrical stethoscope from one spot to another.

“I’m having trouble finding the heartbeat.” After a few more attempts, she muttered something about getting the doctor, and I was left alone in the small examination room.

The wait was excruciating. I knew what labor was like. I’d been through it two years earlier. I couldn’t imagine giving birth while overcome by grief.

Sometimes, waiting is like a game. It’s fun. Exciting. Sometimes, waiting is a chore. It’s demanding. Requires effort.

Sometimes, waiting is agonizing. Terrifying. Earth-shattering.

This pregnancy had been all of these. Before I became Catholic, every day between Halloween and December 25th was Christmas, not Advent. I focused on making sure the food was ready, the cards were sent, and the presents were wrapped. I prepared for Christmas, but I did not stop to think about how to prepare myself for Christmas.

Bottom line, I did not know how to wait.

As Catholics, we know that Advent is about waiting. Preparing. Journeying with Israel through Salvation History. A man grows into a family. Twelve sons become twelve tribes. The tribes become a nation. Prophets, judges and kings lead them. Everything depends on one to one great event.
Caravaggio painting — continued story from page 6

Breaking with the tradition of representing the miracle of Saint Francis' stigmata, Caravaggio depicts the moment after the supernatural event. After receiving the wounds, Francis lies on the ground in ecstasy, held by an angel who comforts him. Caravaggio is more interested in representing the spiritual translation of the miracle than a literal image of it. On the lower left of the canvas, Brother Leon is seen in the darkness, totally unaware of the miraculous moment. Like in many of his religious paintings, Caravaggio focuses on the internal and spiritual nature of the Christian faith.

The painting is one of the few times, if not the only time, that Caravaggio represents a nightscape, which is very difficult to paint, showing his celebrated command of the use of light. In the dark background sky are yellow and orange strips that show the sky's last glows as manifestations of divine power. In the foreground, the light comes from above and to the left, bathing the two figures with a warm glow that underscores Francis' ecstatic peacefulness and the loving gesture of the angel.

While Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy is one of his first religious paintings, the DIA's Martha and Mary Magdalene is one of his first known religious works dramatically staged in an interior. The paintings will be shown side by side, allowing the viewer to compare the skillful rendering and deep spiritual emotion of two of Caravaggio's early masterpieces.

Council receives Knights of Columbus Star Award

For the second consecutive year Knights of Columbus Council #4141 has been awarded the Knights of Columbus Star Award which is the highest distinction any council can realize. The award recognizes programming and outstanding achievement in membership and service program activities. To be eligible to receive the Star Council Award, a council must also qualify and earn the Father McGivney, Founder’s, and Columbian Awards. Council #4141 has also received the Michigan Star and Michigan Achievement Awards during Grand Knight Jim Highfield's term of office. Membership consists of Catholic men from Immaculate Conception in Three Rivers and St. Clare's in Centreville.

Pictured right: Grand Knight Jim Highfield (left) accepted the awards on behalf of Knights of Columbus Council #4141 Three Rivers from District Deputy Lou Scohy (right).
Semana Nacional de la Migración: Enero 5 al 11 del 2014
Lema de la Semana Nacional de la Migración del 2014: “Fuerza de la Ocupidad”
Los Obispos le quieren dar este año a la Semana de la Migración, un enfoque muy especial dirigido a los migrantes más vulnerables, como son: Los niños migrantes, los indocumentados, tados y las víctimas del tráfico humano. Muchos niños son explota- dos y abusados y necesitan protección; los indocumentados viven en la sombra por temor a ser deportados y esperan una reforma integral; los niños de refugiados esperan ser reintegrados a la sociedad y víctimas del tráfico humano necesitan ser liberadas.
Estamos llamados como Iglesia a llevar la luz de Cristo a estas personas y eliminar la oscuridad, y ayudar a esta población a salir del aislamiento de la sociedad y a ser el centro de atención, de protección y de cuidado.
El Papa Francisco en relación a la migración dice, “El fundamento de la dignidad de la persona no está en los criterios de eficiencia, de productividad, de clase social, de pertenencia a una etnia o grupo religioso, sino en el ser creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios (cf. Gén 1,26-27) y, más aún, en el ser hijos de Dios, cada ser humano es hijo de Dios. En él está impresa la imagen de Cristo. Las migraciones pue- den dar lugar a posibilidades de nueva evangelización, a abrir espacios para que crezca una nueva humanidad, preanunciada en el misterio pascual, una humanidad para la cual cada tierra extranjera es patria y cada patria es tierra extranjera.”
(Mensaje del Santo Padre: Jornada Mundial del Emigrante y del Refugiado 2014, agosto 5, 2013)

Rincón de los Jóvenes hispanos/latinos
Por Veronica Rodriguez
Actividades Diocesanas en el 2014:
Marcha Diocesana por la Vida (Diocesan March for Life), Sábado 25 de enero.
Para todos los jóvenes de los grados 9 al 12.
La Presencia (The Presence), del 7 al 9 de febrero – Para todos los jóvenes de los grados 9 al 12.
Encuentro Diocesano Juvenil (Youth Rally), sábado 22 de marzo – Para todos los jóvenes del grado 9 al 12.
Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Misa bilingüe en la Catedral. Preside Nuestro Obispo Paul J. Bradley, Obispo de la Diócesis
Como todos los años, el Señor Obispo, Paul Bradley, preside en la catedral la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Misa bilingüe en la Catedral Diócesis de San Agustín, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Reserve su tiempo para acompañar a la Virgen María en su día. Se sugiere vestirse con vestidos típicos de su país de origen y llevar rosas para regalar a la Virgen. Será un placer compartir con otras personas. Después de la Misa, habrá una recepción para todos.

Bilingual Mass for the Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Presiding Bishop Paul J. Bradley – As in past years, the Most Rev. Paul Bradley will preside the bilingual Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year it will take place on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Cathed- dral, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. We hope you can reserve some time to accompany the Virgin Mary on her day. It is suggested to dress in tradi- tional clothing of different countries of origin. It is also suggested for families to bring roses to offer the Virgin Mary. There will be a reception after Mass.

Calendario/Calendar

Diciembre/December
7 (Sábado) 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana. Centro Pastoral Diocesano (Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center), Kalamazoo.
16 (Lunes) Comienzan las Posadas y Novenas Navideñas en las Parroquias. (Beginning of the Posadas and Christmas Novenas in the Parishes.)

Enero/January 2014
18 (Sábado) 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana. Reunión anual con el Obispo y el Comité Diocesano de Liturgia. Centro Pastoral Diocesano (Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee, annual gathering with the Bishop and the Liturgy Committee), Kalamazoo.

Notas/Notes: Si necesita más información sobre esta agenda, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio Multicultural e Hispano al 269-903-0197. Para más información sobre este calendario, contacte al Oficina de Multicultural and Hispanic Ministry at 269-903-0197.

Cartas de Pablo. Claves para Estudiar y Conocer la Biblia #16
Por Fanny Tabares
Saulo, nombre judío y como ciudadano romano, llevó el nombre latino de Pablo. Fue un judío de una familia tradicional creyente, muy estudioso y fanático de sus creencias y de la ley; sin- tió la predicación de los discípulos de Jesús como un ataque contra sus creencias y se dedicó a perseguirlos; aunque más adelante, encontró su conversión al cris- tianismo (Hechos 9,1-18). Y con la misma energía como judío, comenzó a evangelizar y a formar comun- nidades cristianas en diferentes lugares como Gecia, Asia Menor, Siria y Palestina y buscó anunciar a Jesús a todas las razas y pueblos.
Hizo gran parte de sus viajes a pie, recorrió miles de kilómetros y viajó también por agua; describe sus viajes así: “Con frecuencia estuve al borde de la muerte, muy tembloroso por los judíos con los treinta y nueve golpes, tres veces fui flagelado, una vez fui apedreado, tres veces fue nazzaqro, y pasé un día y una noche en medio del mar. En mis innumerables viajes, pasé peligros en los ríos, peligros de asaltantes, peligros de parte de mis compañeros, peligros de parte de los extranjeros, peligros en la ciudad, peli- gros en lugares des poblados, peligros en el mar, peli- gros en los falsos hermanos, cansancio y hastío, muchas noches en vela, hambre y sed, frecuen- tes ayunos, frío y desierto. Y dejando de lado otras cosas, está mi preocupación cotidiana: el cuidado de todas las Iglesias. ¿Quién es débil, sin que yo me sienta débil? ¿Quién está a punto de caer, sin que yo me sienta como acusado? Si hay que glorificar de algo, yo me gloriaré de mi debilidad. Dios, el Padre del Señor Jesús –bendito sea eternamente – sabe que no miento. En Damasco, el etnaro del rey Arzata hizo custodiar la ciudad para apoderarse de mí, y tuvieron que bajarme por una ventanilla de la muralla, metido en una canastilla: así escapé de sus manos” (2 Corintios 11, 23-33). Podemos decir que Pablo fue un misionero incansable y que gracias a él la iglesia es más misio- nera, universal y multicultural.

Además, fue muy impresionante ser testigo de primera mano del impacto, más allá de lo espiritual y sacramental que la Iglesia tiene para las personas del lugar. La Iglesia tiene un papel importante para ayudar en lo más esencial, en lo más básico de las necesidades humanas de las personas de allí: comida, agua, cuidado médico, y todo tipo de servicios sociales”. Las dos diócesis también comparten muchas simi- litudes incluyendo el mismo Santo Patrono diocesano, San Agustín de Hippo y aproximadamente la misma edad, la Diócesis de Kalamazoo fue fundada en 1971 y la Diócesis de Lodwar fue fundada en 1976. El Obispo diocesano de Kalamazoo realza en su crónica de su jor- nada “cambio de vida” en: “En su último día explicó más sobre el impacto que le dejó este viaje.
“Estoy regresando a casa inspirado, educado, enri- quecido, y motivado por lo que he visto y vivido,” es- crito el Obispo. “Después de mi viaje, me di cuenta de que, visitando a nuestra diócesis hermana y a su Pastor, el Obispo Dominic Kimengich, siento la unión que existe entre nosotros en la fe que nos une. Después de estos dos días, estando fuera de mi casa, dándome cuenta de lo tanto que se nos ha dado, le pido a Dios que me bendiga y bendiga a todos con la responsabilidad y fie- les administradores, al dar gracias y alabanzas a nues- tra Dios y vivir juntos como Su familia amorosa — como ha sido la intención de Dios desde el comienzo”.
Habrá actualizaciones sobre nuestras hermanas y hermanos de la Diócesis de Lodwar en la página dió- cesana de Internet y en las ediciones futures del Good News.

Fortaleciendo las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #3)
Por Veronica Rodriguez
“Los niños aprenden a fiarse del amor de sus padres. Por eso, es importante que los padres cultiven prácticas comunes en la fe, que acompañen el crecimiento en la fe de los hijos” (Papa Francisco, Encíclica Lumen Fidei).
Actividad para hacer en familia este mes de diciembre: como hispanos/latinos tenemos tantas costumbres/tradiciones ricas. Si debido al trabajo y al correr diario nos hemos alejado de ellas, podemos dejarnos guiar por aquello que no vemos pero estamos seguros que existe. Muchas de nuestras parroquias tienen Novenas, la celebración o nofainanas a nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe el 12 de diciembre, las Posadas comenzando el 16 de diciembre, la Misa de Media Noche el 24 de diciembre; sería muy bueno participar en familia en estas ce-
Here & There

Here & There publishes parish, Catholic school and diocesan-sponsored events. Submissions should be sent to Vicki Cessna, vcessna@dioceseofkalamazoo.org

DECEMBER

CENTRAL DEANERY

Kalamazoo:

December 6: Theological Debate Club for Men, Topic: “Intelligence & Faith”
TGI Fridays, West Main Street, Kalamazoo, 7-9 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday, every other even-numbered month.
Contact: Tim McNamara, 269-903-0141.

December 12: Diocesan Guadalupan Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, St. Augustine Catholic, 6:30 p.m.
Reception to follow in the Crowley Center.

Mattawan:

December 4, 8, 11, 15: Uncover the Mysteries of Revelation Video & Discussion Series, St. John Bosco Parish. All are invited to join in weekly on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. or Saturdays 9:15-10:45 a.m.
Contact: St. John Bosco Parish, 269-688-3312.

EASTERN DEANERY

Battle Creek:

December 8, 13, 20, 21: Art exhibition of our Blessed Mother throughout Advent. St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek, 6-8 p.m. Hosted by St. Jerome Parish and the Battle Creek Catholic Artist Guild. Exhibition will run through Advent. All are invited to attend.
Contact: St. Jerome Parish, 269-968-2118.

NORTHERN DEANERY

Dorr:

Contact: Sheryl O’Connor, 616-291-7443 or socoonor2149@sbcglobal.net

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Dowagiac:

December 15: Annual annual play “The First Christmas,” Sacred Heart Mary Church, Dowagiac, 2 p.m.
All are welcome. Contact: Carol Rubino, 269-978-8449

FEBRUARY

CENTRAL DEANERY

Kalamazoo:

February 3: Why Faith: Interpretation of Law
5:30 pm in Holy Angels Parish meeting room, St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo, 6-8 pm.
A new program intended to assist faithful Catholics in learning more about their faith and learning how to be succinct in the defense of their faith. Contact: Janim Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@diockal.org.

February 7: The Presence High School Retreat, Hackett Catholic Center
The Presence high school retreat is a chance for you to encounter the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
Contact: Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tmnamara@diockal.org.

February 8: “Reflecting on the Paschal Mystery in Our Lives” Retreat hosted by Lambeth Catholic, St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, Kalamazoo, 10-6 pm.
Lambeth Catholic is a group approved by the Diocese of Kalamazoo for lesbian and gay Catholics and their friends. The retreat concludes with an optional dinner after the retreat. Cost will be $15. You may register by calling St. Thomas More office.

February 10: Theological Debate Club for Men, Topic: Worship
TGI Friday’s West Main Street, Kalamazoo, 7-9 pm. Meets the 2nd Monday, every other even-numbered months. Contact: Janim Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@diockal.org.

OUTSIDE THE DiOCESe

Lansing:

February 20, 2014: How to Save Your Marriage before Meeting your Spouse (College) with Jason Evert
Thursday, Feb 20 - 7pm Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. St. Thomas Church/St. Joseph’s Student Center
http://chastityproject.com/seminars/events/

Grand Rapids:

March 15: Regional Stewardship Conference
Co-sponsored by Diocese of Grand Rapids, Diocese of Kalamazoo & Diocese of Lansing.
More information to come in the next issue of the Good News.

EWTN’s Raymond Arroyo to speak in Grand Rapids
The 2014 Catholic Studies Speakers Series sponsored by the Acton Institute, Holy Family Radio and Aquinas College, will feature EWTN’s popular television personality Raymond Arroyo on February 25, 2014 at the Wege Center at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Arroyo is an internationally known, award-winning journalist, producer, New York Times Bestselling author and lead anchor for EWTN. He will be speaking on “The Alluring Beauty of Art. The presentation begins at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Lisa Brown, 616-956-1140, lisa.brown@holyfamilyradio.net.

February 11: World Day of the Sick Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Borgess Hospital Lawrence Center, Noon.

Mattawan:

February 15: Monthly Energizer, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, 6 – 8 p.m. The Monthly Energizer gives all a chance to get a bolt of faith energy each month as we gather for music, talks, (crafts for kids) and adoration. Meets the third Saturday of the month.
Contact: Janim Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@diockal.org or Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tmnamara@diockal.org.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Battle Creek:

February 7 – Sponsored by the Secretariat for Communication and Public Affairs.
One-day workshop with leading online experts Brandon Vogt, Josh Simmons and Matthew Warren designed to equip ministry leaders and the faithful in the new media and how to use it to advance the new evangelization.
Cost: $60 and includes lunch.
Contact: Vicki Cessna, 269-903-0163 for more information or download registration form at www.digitalchurchconference.com/kalamazoo

March 7 — Sponsored by the Secretariat for Communication and Public Affairs.
One-day workshop with leading online experts Brandon Vogt, Josh Simmons and Matthew Warren designed to equip ministry leaders and the faithful in the new media and how to use it to advance the new evangelization.
Cost: $60 and includes lunch.
Contact: Vicki Cessna, 269-903-0163 for more information or download registration form at www.digitalchurchconference.com/kalamazoo

February 9: How to Save Your Marriage before Meeting your Spouse (College) with Jason Evert, Thursday, Feb 9 - 7pm Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. St. Thomas Church/St. John’s Student Center
http://chastityproject.com/seminars/events/

February 10: Theological Debate Club for Men, Topic: Worship
TGI Friday’s West Main Street, Kalamazoo, 7-9 pm. Meets the 2nd Monday, every other even-numbered months. Contact: Janim Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@diockal.org.

February 11: World Day of the Sick Mass with Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Borgess Hospital Lawrence Center, Noon.

Mattawan:

February 15: Monthly Energizer, St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan, 6 – 8 p.m. The Monthly Energizer gives all a chance to get a bolt of faith energy each month as we gather for music, talks, (crafts for kids) and adoration. Meets the third Saturday of the month.
Contact: Janim Herold, 269-903-0141 or jherold@diockal.org or Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tmnamara@diockal.org.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Dowagiac:

February 15: 3rd annual play “The First Christmas,” Sacred Heart Mary Church, Dowagiac, 2 p.m.
All are welcome. Contact: Carol Rubino, 269-978-8449

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: 877-902-0121.
A caller will be requested to provide the name and contact information of the person who their name and contact information of the person who

Digital Church Conference

EASTERN DEANERY

Battle Creek:

February 7 – On the Rock – Young Adult Offering, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek, 7 pm. Join young adults college age through 30s as together we embark on a year-long journey to encounter Jesus Christ as he is present among us and within our daily lives.
Cost: Free
Contact: Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tmnamara@diockal.org

Beyond Words: An Icon Retreat

Dane & Elaine, David & Eck

Mon., Feb. 17 - Fri. 3
For beginner and experienced artists, we ask you to spend a peaceful learning as you create a beautiful icon with Diana’s direction that you can take home and enjoy.

Wayne Muller

Pre- Lenten Pause Retreat

Jan. 31 – Feb. 4
Details on our website!
Clergy participated in a contest held on All Saints Day at St. Monica Elementary School, Kalamazoo, included (from left): Fr. James Adams, Fr. Larry Farrell, Msgr. Tom Martin, Fr. Dan Hyman, Deacon Jack Prendergast, Deacon Bart Connelly, Fr. Chris Ankley, Fr. Chris Derda.

St. Ann Parish, Cassopolis, celebrated the first of several “Super Sunday, Faith Fun Day” total parish catechetical events on Sunday, November 3. Following the 10 a.m. Mass, more than 40 adults and children gathered for a light lunch and then divided into groups for catechesis. The adults enjoyed a talk by Fr. John Keefe from Fatima House at Notre Dame University who spoke on “The Jesus of Scripture.” Junior and senior high students learned about Theology of the Body for Teens while younger children learned about becoming a saint. The program concluded with a parade of saints by the elementary and preschool/kinder-garten students and a spirited rendition of the song, “When the Saints Come Marching In.”

Clergy play “Guess the Saint” at St. Monica’s

Students from Vineyard Academy, Richland, and principal Carrie Jewett, were on-air guests during Holy Family Radio’s bi-annual pledge-a-thon. The Catholic radio station raised more than $155,000 during its three-day pledge drive. For more information visit: www.holyfamilyradio.net.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley blesses St. Ann’s preschool in Augusta while curious students watch. The preschool is in its second year of operation at the parish and has close to 20 students.