



"Summertime and the living is easy."* But it's not, is it.

I intended to write a pithy reflection of finding faith-filled things to do in the summer (see pages 10-13) or wax on about my own Catholic school memories (check out John Proos cover feature). Or echo Bishop Bradley's words of wisdom about renewing our faith (page 4). And those are great features by the way — check them out.

But I'm not feeling very lighthearted. And the world seems a bit frightening doesn't it? Soon after the horrific shooting that claimed the lives of 19 innocent people, my social media feeds were flooded with everyone from celebrities to sports coaches saying "enough with your thoughts and prayers — keep 'em to yourself." And while I absolutely understand the frustration that fuels those responses, well, it just makes me profoundly sad.

I mean, really? Have we lost so much hope that we're ready to toss aside someone's prayers like a used tissue? And while I understand that hollow, disingenuous words don't do anything, I do know that prayers do. I've witnessed it. As does faith in action. Why can't we have both? Have we really lost all faith or our tolerance for it?

I hope not. Or rather, *I* hope. I witness a man lovingly push his wife in a wheelchair, and *I hope*. I see the customer in Kohl's hand a \$5 coupon to a stranger, and *I hope*. People across the globe unite in prayer for our Ukrainian sisters and brothers, and *I hope*.

I have to. The alternative is just too bleak — the alternative being a world where we dismiss the power of prayer. As one of my favorite authors wrote so brilliantly:

We do not pray to tell God what he does not know, nor to remind him of things he has forgotten. He already cares for the things we pray about ... He has simply been waiting for us to care about them with him.

—Philip Yancey, *Prayer:*Does It Make Any Difference?

One of my go-to feel-good videos I watch to bolster my spirits is the Young Peoples Chorus of New York singing "Let there be Peace on Earth" for Pope Francis during his apostolic visit to the United States. The composer, Jill Jackson-Miller, has said she wrote the song after discovering what she called the "life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love." And I would guess she found that first in prayer.

So write that card to a friend, bake those cookies to share just because, get to know your neighbors. We've been going this alone for too long, thinking it's someone else's job to fix our messy world. Look for the good around you (like the inspiring work of Caring Network and those that journey with moms in need — see page 22). And be inspired to multiply it.

And let peace begin with us.
But before all else, let's
keep praying for each other —
God's waiting on us. †



VICTORIA CESSNA

 Southwest Michigan Catholic The magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo Copyright 2022

SUMMER 2022 Volume 4: Issue 1 www.swmcatholic.org

Also find us on the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest

f y o

Bishop Paul J. Bradley PUBLISHER

Victoria Cessna EXECUTIVE EDITOR/ DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Paul J. Bradley
Victoria Cessna
Doug Culp
Sarah DeMott
Michelle DiFranco
Father John Fleckenstein
Jacob Kanclerz
Socorro Truchan
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jeannette Mattheis jmattheis@diokzoo.org CIRCULATION



Elizabeth Martin Solsburg
PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jenny Pomicter
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

To advertise in Southwest Michigan Catholic, contact Terry Hageman thageman@diokzoo.org.



Southwest Michigan Catholic is published quarterly by the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Send address changes to Southwest Michigan Catholic, 215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3718.

STOCK PHOTO CREDITS:

Page 2 music notes: Setty Images/GoodGnom; Pages 10-13: Wave background: Setty Images/ art-sonik; Highlighter graphics: Setty Images/ Masha; Maps: Setty Images/Turbo; Sun and field background: Setty Images/Hennadii; Page 17 graduation cap illustration: Setty Images/zokka.



FEATURES

- 10 Travel Ideas
 Faith-filled fun trips
 to take this summer
- 20 Feature Story
 Catholic school enters
 new era with new name
- 22 Feature Story How Catholics walk with moms in need



They have helped me cover every aspect of being a mother, being an adult. They have been there for me when I didn't know what to do."

- Tee'aira Adams, pg. 22



COLUMNS

- 4 The Bishop's Perspective
- 6 Marriage Matters
- 8 Dear Father
- 9 Saint of the Month
- 14 Culture
- 15 Theology 101
- **26** Hispanic Ministry



PLUS

30 Local News



Religiously
referenced pots
Follow simple directions
for potting some fragrant,
colorful or delicious plants to
enjoy year-round, along with
some quotes to reflect on.

3

^{*} Summertime, George Gershwin, Porgy and Bess, 1935



Summertime's the perfect time for faith

"Come to Me, all who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you." (Mt 11:28)

while there may be that little voice inside us that suggests that, like school, we should take a summertime vacation from going to Church or praying regularly, I would suggest that summertime is the perfect time to *re-engage*, *renew* and *be refreshed* in our prayerful relationship with God and in our faith.

RE-ENGAGE

"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (Rom 12:2)

As St. Paul urged the Romans, we should also realize the health of our spiritual lives depends on putting God at the center of our lives. If we have strayed from that relationship, or if it's grown a bit cold, now is the perfect time to re-engage with God through prayer and practice. We need to hear beautiful invitation Jesus constantly

extends to us to come to him to find what we need. There's no better way to do that, of course, than by coming to Mass every Sunday, and perhaps on some weekdays as well, so that we can experience God's Love through his Word and the miraculous Gift of the Eucharist. And when we do that with our sisters and brothers in Christ, those who are sharing our journey of faith, then we know we are never alone. I commend those who already prioritize their faith practice; I encourage everyone, especially those who may have become lax in

their relationship with God, to use this summertime to *re-engage*. Your parish family is not as complete without you.

RENEW

We're all very much aware many in our world dismiss the need for faith-filled lives, and may even consider God and faith as irrelevant. God made us in his image and likeness, and he has placed within each of us a deep longing to be one with God and with each other that can only be satisfied by deepening our relationship with God. As our diocesan patron, St. Augustine, wrote: "Our hearts are restless, and they will remain restless until they rest in you." So, how do we do that? How do we find that ultimate rest? We need to renew and deepen our relationship with God. Maybe it's by fitting in some quiet time for prayer at the beginning and end of each day; perhaps it's by spending time with Jesus himself in Eucharistic Adoration, or just sitting quietly before the Tabernacle in your parish church. We could also renew our relationship with God through activities, such as volunteering at your parish's vacation bible school and, in the process, being inspired by the joyful faith of God's innocent children. Or maybe it could result from exploring a new pilgrimage site while on vacation. Whatever you choose, you will find that your faith and sense of reconnection to the Body of Christ will be renewed.

REFRESH

One of my favorite summertime activities is reading a good book while sitting by the



is the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

water. Reading is a wonderful way to refresh our minds and souls, and you have more time to read at a slower pace and reflect during the summertime. I encourage all of us to include summertime reading as a great practice and to include among that reading *The Lives of the Saints* or other spiritual works to deepen our understanding of our faith and our relationship with God. The great St. Thomas Aquinas once insightfully wrote:

"God, who made things, did not rest in the things he made, but rested from them, in himself ... just so should we learn to rest not in our things or in his things, as if they were the goal, but rather in God himself, in whom our happiness exists."

Have a few extra minutes? Read or listen to the daily Scripture readings. Brush up on the saints by subscribing to a daily email. Consider reading Little Talks with God by St.Saint Catherine of Siena or Meditations from a Simple Path by St. Teresa of Calcutta (aka Mother Teresa).

During these summer months, when our schedules become just a bit more relaxed, let us also be sure we do not relax our relationship with God and the practice of our Faith. In fact, summertime is the perfect time to re-engage, be renewed and be refreshed. You will be rewarded abundantly. †

El verano es el momento perfecto para la fe

S i bien puede haber esa "vocecita" dentro de nosotros que sugiere que, como en la escuela, deberíamos tomarnos unas vacaciones de verano para no ir a la Iglesia u orar con regularidad, yo sugeriría que el verano es el momento perfecto para volver a comprometernos, renovarnos y actualizarnos en nuestra relación de oración con Dios y en nuestra fe.

COMPROMETERSE OTRA VEZ

"No sigan la corriente del mundo en que vivimos, sino más bien transfórmense a partir de una renovación interior. Así sabrán distinguir cuál es la voluntad de Dios, lo que es bueno, lo que le agrada, lo que es perfecto.". [Romanos 12:2]

Como San Pablo instó a los romanos, también debemos darnos cuenta de que la salud de nuestra vida espiritual depende de poner a Dios en el centro de nuestra vida. Si nos hemos desviado de esa relación, o si se ha enfriado un poco, ahora es el momento perfecto para volver a comprometernos con Dios a través de la oración y la práctica. Necesitamos escuchar esa hermosa invitación que Jesús nos hace constantemente para que vengamos a Él a buscar lo que necesitamos. No hay mejor manera de hacerlo, por supuesto, que viniendo a Misa todos los domingos, y quizás también algunos días de la semana, para que podamos experimentar el Amor de Dios a través de Su Palabra y el Don milagroso de la Eucaristía. Y cuando hacemos eso con nuestras hermanas y hermanos en Cristo, aquellos que comparten nuestro camino de fe, entonces sabemos que nunca estamos solos. Felicito a los que ya priorizan su práctica de fe; Animo a todos, especialmente a aquellos que pueden haberse vuelto laxos en su relación con Dios, a usar este verano para volver a comprometerse. Su familia parroquial no está tan completa sin usted.

RENOVAR

Todos somos muy conscientes de que muchos en nuestro mundo descartan la necesidad de una vida llena de fe, e incluso pueden considerar a Dios y la fe como irrelevantes. Dios nos hizo a Su imagen y semejanza, y ha puesto dentro de cada uno de nosotros un profundo anhelo de ser uno con Dios y con los demás, que solo puede satisfacerse profundizando nuestra relación con Dios. Como escribió nuestro patrono diocesano, San Agustín: "Nuestros corazones están inquietos, y permanecerán inquietos hasta que descansen en ti". ¿Entonces

"Vengan a mí los que van cansados, llevando pesadas cargas, y yo los aliviaré".

(Mt 11,28)

cómo hacemos eso? ¿Cómo encontramos ese último "descanso"? Necesitamos *renovar* y profundizar nuestra relación con Dios. Tal vez sea haciendo tiempo en silencio para orar al principio y al final de cada día; tal vez sea pasando tiempo con Jesús mismo en la Adoración Eucarística, o simplemente sentándose en silencio ante el Tabernáculo en nuestra iglesia parroquial. También podríamos *renovar* nuestra relación con Dios a través de actividades, como ser voluntarios en la escuela bíblica de vacaciones de su parroquia y, en el proceso, ser inspirados por la fe gozosa de los niños inocentes de Dios. O tal vez podría ser el resultado de explorar un nuevo lugar de peregrinación durante las vacaciones. Elijan lo que elijan, encontrarán que su fe y su sentido de reconexión con el Cuerpo de Cristo serán *renovados*.

ACTUALIZAR

Una de mis actividades favoritas de verano es leer un buen libro sentado junto al agua. La lectura es una manera maravillosa de refrescar nuestras mentes y almas; y tienes más tiempo para leer a un ritmo más lento y reflexionar durante el verano. Animo a todos a incluir la lectura de verano como una gran práctica, y a incluir entre esas lecturas las Vidas de los santos u otras obras espirituales para profundizar nuestra comprensión de nuestra Fe y nuestra relación con Dios. El gran Santo Tomás de Aquino una vez escribió con perspicacia: "Dios, que hizo las cosas, no descansó en las cosas que hizo, sino que descansó de ellas, en sí mismo... así también debemos aprender a no descansar en nuestras cosas o en sus cosas, como si fueran la meta, sino en Dios mismo, en quien está nuestra felicidad".

¿Tienen unos minutos extra? – luego lean o escuchen las lecturas bíblicas diarias; pónganse al día con los santos suscribiéndose a un correo electrónico diario; Consideren los escritos espirituales de Santa Catalina de Siena, "Pequeñas conversaciones con Dios", o las "Meditaciones de un camino simple" de Santa Madre Teresa.

Durante estos meses de verano, cuando nuestros horarios se vuelven un poco más relajados, asegurémonos también de no relajar nuestra relación con Dios y la práctica de nuestra fe. De hecho, el verano es el momento perfecto para *volver a comprometerse, renovarse y refrescarse*. Serán recompensados abundantemente.

Dios los bendiga. +

4 Southwest Michigan Catholic | Summer 2022 diokzoo.org

Southwest Michigan Catholic | Summer 2022

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad!

~Psalm 118:24



is the Associate Director, Domestic Church, for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE VIEW! WHAT AN OVERWHELMING EXPERIENCE IT WAS TO SEE THE WHOLE WORLD FROM THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN.

"Wake up, wake up!" My beloved Tony gently urged me to wake up as we began to cross the iconic Mackinac Bridge, the five-mile-long suspension bridge linking the lower and upper peninsulas of Michigan. I had fallen asleep on the drive "up north" (as many Michigan natives will say).

This was the beginning of our honeymoon. I had never been to this place, and I was looking forward to seeing all the wonders of the state as described by my beloved. One thing we made clear from the start of our journey: we would visit all the Catholic churches along the way, and we would light a blessed candle at each

one, as we'd offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Our journey this time took

us to the top of Brockway Mountain, located in Copper Harbor. The view from this mountain is spectacular, and it took my breath away! I could see only trees and the water of Lake Superior and God's perfect creation as far as my eye could see - no roads or buildings or other manmade structures. It was an incredible opportunity to offer a prayer of worship and praise to God. I remember basking in the vastness and the silence. The one exception to the silence was the sound of the wind blowing, as if it was a message from God saying,

"I am with you and will protect you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15)

How do you keep your Catholic faith and Sunday Mass at the center of all you do? Sometimes it can seem difficult to do when planning summer vacations, family reunions, and other fun recreational activities. Yet, when we make it a point to keep the faith first, many graces and blessings rain down on us when we least expect it.

As you take time as a couple this summer, remember that not only did you make a promise to each other, but your marriage is a covenant with God. Invite him into your day whether you're taking a short road trip to a farmer's market or an extended week at the beach.

Take time this summer to appreciate every moment God provides, every 'God moment.' When traveling, make sure to stop and visit a church along the way. Light a candle for a special prayer intention and remember to celebrate Mass on Sundays and any other day. God is always with us, and he patiently waits in the "abandoned tabernacle," as our Eucharistic Lord, for us to stop by and say "hello" and stay for an hour or more to keep him company. The more we remember our Lord, the more he will remember us to the Father because "the Lord's kindness is forever, toward the faithful from age to age. He favors the children's children." (Ps 103:17)



www.masstimes.org when traveling for the Mass closest to you.



The light of our prayers

A common site at many Catholic churches is a rack of votive candles placed before statues and sacred objects. "Votive" candle and comes from the Latin votum, meaning promise, dedication or simply "prayer."

Lighting a candle for someone is a way to both extend your prayers and show solidarity with the person the prayer is being

made on behalf of. The faithful also light candles as a sign of gratitude to God for answered prayers.

The light signifies our prayer, which is offered in faith, entering the light of God. It also shows reverence and our desire to remain present in prayer even as we continue on our day. †



IT SEEMS LIKE THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS ASKING FOR MONEY. WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

Many of us have a bucket list of things we would like to do in our lifetimes. I do, too. One thing on my list, for example, is to visit all the presidential museums in the United States. (I have only made it to three so far). I'd also like to see Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon and several places in New England. The most important thing on my list is one I might never accomplish, but it is a good goal to have. I'd like to visit

the Holy Land. I have heard of the extraordinary impact it has on people when they are in the places where Jesus was born, performed miracles and celebrated the Last Supper, and when they go the site of the crucifixion and, of course, of the resurrection.

One of the places where I'd like to visit is the Jordan River. I was reading some interesting facts about the river where Jesus was baptized. For example, it flows from the

is rich life in its waters. It's filled with numerous types of fish and varying plant life. I've read it is Israel's largest source of fresh drinking water, supplying about onethird of the nation's annual water requirement. The Sea of Galilee takes water from the Jordan River, and then it gives water back to the river. The water simply passes through the Sea of Galilee. As a result, the Sea of Galilee is full of life and beauty.

Sea of Galilee, where there

Now compare that with the Dead Sea. The Jordan River and other waters flow into the Dead Sea but do not flow out. As a result, evaporation of the water leaves a very high salt



FATHER JOHN FLECKENSTEIN is the Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph.

66

IF WE ONLY ACCEPT THE
TREASURES WE HAVE BEEN
GIVEN AND NOT SHARE
IT, THEN WE ARE LIKE
THE DEAD SEA. NOTHING
FLOWS FROM US, SO WE
CANNOT BE LIFE GIVING."

content ... such that no life can survive in it.

Why is this important?
I think this can be like our lives of faith. I think it can be reflective of the ways in which we share — or do not share — our time, talents and treasure. If we allow ourselves to spend our time, for instance, helping

others, we are like the Sea of Galilee. Giving up some of our time for others allows us to give life like the Sea of Galilee. The same thing goes for our talents and treasure. When we receive these gifts from God, and pass them on or in other words, share them with others — we're like the Jordan River: we can provide much life. But if we are only willing to take God's gifts and keep them for ourselves and not share them with others. we are more like the Dead Sea where life cannot thrive.

One example of where the diocesan Church asks for our monetary gifts is through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, which funds the ministries, resources and programs of the Diocese of Kalamazoo (including my own seminary education). God gifts us treasures in small or large ways. But regardless of the amount of money we give, we are called to be like the Sea of Galilee, where we give some of our treasure so that we can help provide life to others. But if we only accept the treasures we have been given and not share it, then we are like the Dead Sea. Nothing flows from us, so we cannot be life giving. We can apply that not just to our treasures but to our time and talents. Do we volunteer? Do we offer our God-given talents for his glory?

When it comes to sharing our treasure, time or talent, we should ask ourselves what we are more like when it comes to the gifts God gives us. Do we want to share those with others, or simply receive them and never pass it on? One provides life, and the other doesn't. That's a journey we all need to take — and to add to our bucket lists, too. †

St. John Vianney

FEAST DAY: AUG. 4

ohn Vianney was a driving force for reviving the faith in Europe following the persecution of Catholics after the French Revolution. Known affectionately as the Cure d'Ars, he is the patron saint of parish priests because of his zealous call to Gospel values and his compassionate care of those who returned to God in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Born Jean Baptiste-Marie Vianney in
Dardilly in 1786, John joined his devout
parents in worship at their local parish
and in caring for the poor. When it
became illegal and dangerous to be
Catholic, his family traveled secretly
to distant farms for Mass celebrated by
priests hiding in fear for their lives. John
prepared to receive the sacraments by candlelight, covering the windows during lessons
to avoid being discovered, jailed or even killed.

John was drafted to serve in the military, but when he became separated from his unit, he deserted. When granted amnesty, he persevered in his quest to become a priest. Challenged by Latin and other academic courses, he was admitted to the seminary only when his local pastor convinced his superiors of John's great love of God. He was finally ordained at age 30.

Assigned to his home parish of Ars, word of his fervor for bringing the lost back home to the Church spread quickly. His insightful work as a confessor to people who had been denied the comfort of their faith soon drew people from neighboring villages, cities and eventually from throughout Europe. John heard up to 300 confessions every day, spending 11 to 12 hours helping people turn back to God. In the summer, the time stretched to 16 hours, and penitents waited up to a week to receive forgiveness. Accounts report that by 1855, John was hearing 20,000 confessions a year, a number that reportedly grew to 75,000 in later years.

John's passion for reconciling people to God was also expressed in his care for the downtrodden. In 1824 he opened La Providence, a home and school for destitute girls and women forced into prostitution during the economic upheaval following the Napoleonic Era.

John's life is an important example of the value of both welcome and witness to those who have turned away from God and in the power that reconciliation has in healing and renewing their love for God. John served all who came to him at Ars selflessly until his death at age 73. †

TRAVEL IDEAS

BY SARAH DEMOTT

SHRINE OF BISHOP BARAGA

17570 US Hwy 41, L'Anse, MI 49801 906-524-7021

If you happen to be on US-41 between L'Anse and Baraga, you may see a giant (35-foot-tall) copper figure rising above the bluffs of Keweenaw Bay. That's a statue of Frederic Baraga, the first Bishop of the Upper Peninsula and the Apostle of the Great Lakes. The Bishop Baraga Shrine was designed and constructed in the 1960s. The shrine is a great place to stop and visit to take in the beauty of the lakeshore and have a picnic. The shrine and the Stations of the Cross prayer path are always open.

The "cross" in Cross in the Woods is called "The Man on the Cross" and is a bronze sculpture of the crucified Christ. It weighs seven tons, is 28 feet tall from head to toe and has an arm-span of 21 feet.

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE CROSS IN THE WOODS

FUN

7078 M-68. Indian River. MI 49749 231-238-8973 crossinthewoods.com

This one is a must-see for Michiganders, especially now that St. Kateri Tekakwitha has been canonized (October 21, 2012). In addition to St. Kateri, The Cross in the Woods includes shrines to various saints, including St. Francis of Assisi and St. Peregrine. The new church can seat up to 1,000 people and features a view of "The Man on the Cross." You can also climb the Holy Stairs, representing the 28 stairs Jesus had to climb to Pontius Pilate, on your knees while praying and meditating.

Bishop Baraga was nicknamed "the snowshoe priest" because he often had to travel great distances by foot in the winter months to serve the native populations and the small copper-mine churches. He was known to travel more than 700 miles in the winter.

THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI **SCULPTURE GARDEN AT MARYWOOD**

2025 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 instrumentsofhope.net

The 11-acre St. Francis of Assisi Sculpture Garden pathway includes 16 sculptures and invites visitors to enjoy a reflective walk. The land is owned by the Dominican Sisters at Marywood and run by the nonprofit Instruments of Hope. Inspired by

events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi. the beautifully crafted bronze statues along the Garden trail. conceived and created by sculptor and founder Mic Carlson. depict St. Francis in postures of prayer, meditation, preaching and interacting with nature. They are placed in areas conducive to quiet reflection and are accompanied by storyboards sharing the life of this inspirational and much-loved saint.

The original 16 bronze sculptures were featured in a month-long exhibition at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy and have all been commemorated and permanently located in the sculpture garden.

SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

1780 Mount Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207 313-579-2100 solanuscenter.org

This Center is based around the Capuchin lifestyle, dedicated to Blessed Solanus Casey, a Capuchin priest. It has art, historical and cultural exhibits. Life-size beatitudes, a creation garden and a hall of etched-glass saints are among the many things you can explore and be inspired by. You can purchase a keepsake booklet that will guide you through the Center. And because it is less than a 10-minute drive from Comerica Park, why not make a day trip to Detroit?

> Blessed Solanus Casey died in 1957, on the 53rd anniversary of his first Mass. It is said he stretched out his arms and said "I give my soul to Jesus Christ," immediately before taking his last breath. He was declared "Venerable" by St. John Paul II in 1995. After a miraculous healing attributed to him was approved by Pope Francis in 2017, he was beatified in Detroit

at Ford Field on November 18, 2017.

to take this summer

Vacations can be fun and educational, while still incorporating your faith life. Here are some great spots to visit in Michigan and Indiana.

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE OF SAINT-MARY-OF-THE-WOODS

1 Sisters of Providence Rd., Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876 812-535-3131 spsmw.org

In 1840 St. Mother Theodore Guerin established the Sisters of Providence on the same grounds they currently reside today. The Sisters oversee 1,200 wooded acres of land, perfect for a relaxing, peaceful getaway. Things to see include the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the beautiful St. Anne Shell Chapel, the Log Cabin Chapel and the Stations of the Cross.

MONASTERY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

802 E. 10th St... Ferdinand, IN 47532 812-367-1411 thedome.org

The monastery's bakery, For Heaven's Sake, receives orders from all over the world, especially during the Christmas season. The bakery is famous for its signature hand-made springerles (anise-flavored cookies). Baked goods and more may

be ordered online at thedome.org/

monastery-baked-goods.

The White Violet Center for

Eco-Justice, located on the Sisters'

grounds, was founded in 1996 to

offer leadership and education in

the preservation, restoration and

reverent use of all natural resourc-

es. It provides awareness through

education and social advocacy. At

interact with a herd of alpacas, 343

garden, a bluebird trail and a forest.

organic agriculture, eco-justice

the White Violet Center, you can

acres of state-certified organic

farmland, bees, berries, a water

The Monastery Immaculate Conception has been home to the Sisters of St. Benedict since 1887. The convent's church sits atop a hill, its dome rising 87 feet and visible from all around, earning the nickname "Castle on the Hill." There are numerous shrines, statues, a Lourdes grotto, an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a labyrinth for prayer and meditation. Guided tours are offered daily Tuesday through Sunday. You can even stay overnight at the Kordes Center for less than most hotels.

THE SHRINE OF **CHRIST'S PASSION**

10630 Wicker Ave (US 41), St. John, IN 46373 216-365-6010 shrineofchristspassion.org

More than 1,000 trees and bushes were planted on the site, more than 3,000 yards of stamped concrete were poured and 80 semis of boulders were brought in from Wisconsin. Each of the 40 bronze sculptures weighs between 300 and 700 pounds.

The shrine is an interactive, half-mile-long prayer trail depicting the last days of Jesus Christ's life, from the Last Supper to his resurrection. Forty life-size bronze sculptures are placed throughout the trail in tableaus of the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Narration by Chicago broadcaster Bill Kurtis is available by pressing a button near each tableau. The shrine also features a 6,000-square-foot gift shop and visitor center that are open year-round. It is handicap accessible, and they offer club cars for those who are unable to walk the paved prayer trail. The pathway is lit for early-evening use and is open yearround, weather permitting.

MARY'S CHILDREN — **MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER** RETREAT CENTER

8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington, IN 47404 812-825-4642 maryschildren.com

Only a few miles outside of Bloomington, the retreat center is a place of peace and prayer. It covers nearly 100 acres and includes a bookstore, convent, retreat center, rosary path and a shrine with a life-sized statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

Retreats dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus take place every month. During that time, Franciscan Sisters and Friars of the Immaculate take up residence on the farm. +

Southwest Michigan Catholic | Summer 2022 diokzoo.org



I 9 1 1 never forget the day when, newly married, I walked into my kitchen and found several bunches of uprooted weeds on my granite countertops. I was horrified and found myself wondering about the man to whom I had just said, "I do." Upon entering the kitchen, my husband saw the look on my face and explained that those "weeds" were the remaining herbs from the garden he was preparing to winterize and that "we" had to do something with them quickly before they went bad. Oh, great. So in addition to cleaning up the bug-infested vegetation that had been brought into my newly renovated home. I had to rethink my meal plan for the week.

Over time, I have come to love my husband's garden in all its seasons. Late May, in particular, is a time that brings a tinge of excitement for what lies ahead. The tender new plants grace the dark soil and foretell the bounty that is to come from the earth.

But along with the edible come also the fragrant and the beautiful. The herbs and flowers that we place around our garden each year assure that all of our senses are filled with the majesty and miracle of life that during the winter seem so completely lost

Often, I am reminded of the symbolism and meaning that plants and gardens play in Scripture and

in our faith. The Garden of Eden was God's earthly paradise. The inexplicable scent of roses has been perceived by saints and by those who have received miraculous visions of our Blessed Mother. Jesus went into the Garden of Gethsemane when he needed most to find peace and feel close to his Father. All of these things seem to suggest that the beauty of the earth's produce is as important and special to our Lord as it is to us. To work with the earth and plants can be a way of cultivating and participating in the beauty of our Lord's creation. As my father-inlaw says every year as he puts his vegetable garden in behind his garage, "A garden is like a prayer."



MICHELLE DIFRANCO is a designer and the busy mom of three children.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP SHIPPERT

Religiously referenced pots

When potting herbs and flowers, I have enhanced the otherwise mundane terra cotta pot with a religious quote that relates to the plant. Follow these simple directions. If you need a few ideas for some fragrant, colorful or delicious plants to enjoy year-round, I supply a few suggestions along with a quote.

- Medium or large terra cotta pot(s)
- · Acrylic craft paint
- Water based
- · 8.5" x 11" patterned paper

Begin by sealing the in-side of the pot with two coats of water-based polyurethane and let dry completely. Decide on a

paint style and apply two coats

of acrylic paint to the outside of

the pot. Type and print out the

quote (and name of plant, if you

front of the painted pot. Cut out

a paper frame and apply it over

the printed piece. Apply two to

three coats of polyurethane on

the outside to protect and seal

your decorated pot and allow

to dry completely. Plant desired

herbs or flowers in plastic liner

or pot and place inside the

decorated pot.

wish). Trim and adhere to the

- · Flowerpot liner(s) or slightly smaller plastic pot(s) to fit inside
- 1" or larger paintbrush
- polyurethane spray
- Printer
- Scissors
- Glue stick

Roses "God intervenes to allow

the smell of perfume whenever he wants."

– PADRE PIO

Mustard

"What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it with? It is like a mustard seed which a man took and threw into his garden: it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air sheltered in its branches."

- LUKE 13:18-19

Lavender

"Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the house was filled with the scent of the ointment."

- JOHN 12:3

Lemon Grass

"As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth."

- PSALMS 103:15

Lily

"Think how the lilies grow; they never have to spin or weave; yet, I assure you, not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of them." - LUKE 12:27

Tomato

"Plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them.'

- JEREMIAH 29:5

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds."

- ST. BASIL

"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon." - PROVERBS 7:17 +



JOHN PRODS REFLECTS ON Che value of CATHOLIC EDUGATION

BY VICTORIA CESSNA

s he walks the halls of his alma mater, John Proos stops to greet the school staff, joke with one of the high school students and give a shoutout to his daughter Nora's soccer teammate on a great game. The memories come flooding back for the 1988 graduate of Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC)* [now Our Lady of the Lake] as he recalls the lifelong friends he made and the faith-centered education that paved his path to public service. As he looks back John can easily trace the impact of his Catholic school education as influencing every aspect of his life. Today John's interest in the success of Catholic school education extends beyond being an alumnus; he is now a parent, community member and president of the Lake Michigan Catholic School Fund.

John is standing on the street corner of the school's campus as we're shooting photos, and the proof of his deep roots in the community are evident in the countless cars that slow down to say "hello" or ask him a quick question or offer a smart remark. Maybe it's due to his lifelong residency in St. Joseph or his 14 years in public service as a representative in Michigan's State House and Senate. Whatever the reason, John is happiest in his hometown and is fervently committed to both its success and the success of Catholic school education.

"The impact of my time at

Lake Michigan Catholic was that deep sense that I have a responsibility to serve others - that was modeled at home with my parents. My father was engaged in the community with many different activities and volunteer pursuits and my mother was always volunteering in the library and even worked in the business office at school."

In fact, John estimates that his father, a family doctor who passed away suddenly in 2014, delivered more than 1,500 babies over the course of his career and as a family doctor journeyed with people from before birth through end of life.

"There wasn't an evening when we were out and about that he didn't get stopped," he smiles, "everybody wanted to talk to Doc Proos."

And like many children, John may have temporarily dreamed of following in his father's footsteps, but instead of family medicine, his service would lead him to a career in government service and now in the private sector consulting for clients in government affairs and working at home with community leaders.

So, it's easy to assume that during his time at LMC he was in student government.

"No, not at all," he laughs, noting that he didn't have any



THE THREE

PILLARS OF

CATHOLIC

EDUCATION:

Education

Citizenship

• Faith

interest at all. That is, until an inspirational teacher gave him a life-changing assignment.
And it all started with

a mock presidential candidate debate.

When John was a high school senior the 1988 presidential elections were gearing up in the spring.

"'88 had a slate of candidates on both sides," he recalls. "My English teacher Caryl DaDan assigned me the role of Jesse Jackson, and I had to portray him in an actual debate — right in the cafeteria.

"Caryl and the experience really spurred my interest in government and the public sector," explains John, who notes Caryl helped shine a light on the higher calling that a life in government can be, "to try to properly represent the people."

John went on to earn his Bachelor of Political Science at Marquette University, where he met his future wife and fellow alumna, Kristy. He continued his education with a Master of Education at Michigan State University. His political career began as district representative and deputy chief of staff for Rep. Fred Upton, a role he had

for nearly a decade. Then he embarked on his 14-yearcareer as a legislator, where he

> served three terms as a state representative and two terms as a state senator.

> And it was that idea of service and listening, values reinforced in his Catholic schooling, that formed how he ran his office.

"Chances are if you're calling your state senator it's likely the only time you'll do it. So if you do, you're probably at your wit's end and frustrated with something in government and you need a solution. It was something I learned while on staff for Fred and an attribute that I instilled in my staff: every call that comes in is probably a crisis of some sort and every person needs to be heard."

And while he admits that in the beginning of his public service his own expression of his faith was more private, he began to be more comfortable with an outward expression — for example, wearing his Knights of Columbus pin on his lapel. This small gesture turned out to be a conversation starter.

"For some people, the design of the fourth degree pin

actually looks a bit like the Indiana University logo," he laughs when explaining why colleagues would want to engage, probably to start talking about sports rivalries.

"But it lead to great conversations as I was able to explain about who the Knights are and about all they do for the community."

It was also in his legislative work that John could draw direct lines to his Catholic faith, explaining, "Criminal justice work may be the most faith-driven work I've done.

"Incarceration is a tool that's necessary but not the only tool [for] rehabilitating offenders. If you're able to solve some of the underlying problems that are likely related to drug and alcohol addiction or mental health concerns — you have a chance to break the cycle of crime."

That work extended to his writing the law for the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation program and being appointed chair of the corrections

budget — projects he admits were both frustrating but rewarding.

This work, he notes, "fit directly into my faith growth over the years and valuing the need to reach out to those on the margins."

Today John's average day looks a bit different than it did when he was in government. His term ended at the end of 2018, and he transitioned into the private sector where he's now president of JP4 Government Solutions, a consulting firm.

"I thank God every day that I had the year to get established [in his private business] and to transition from a very public position to a private one; and to find my way into serving the community in new ways."

So what's his day look like now?

"Today, it's a mix of Catholic school activities," he says. His youngest child, daughter Nora, plays varsity soccer, volleyball and basketball. And he has more flexibility to visit his





"WE NEED TO CLEARLY DEFINE WHO WE ARE AND NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR IT — EVER. I PRAY THAT'S THE FORMULA FOR GROWTH IN CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATION, ENROLLMENT AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VALUE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN."

— John Proos

other children — son Jack, who's at Butler University, and daughter Elena, who's at Marquette University. He is quick to credit his wife Kristy for balancing the needs of the household and maintaining a career in finance at Whirlpool Corporation while he served in the legislature. "For me it's a different pace, but just as busy."

Part of that busy schedule includes his work for the Lake Michigan Catholic School Fund. At the urging of his father, John became a board member of the local foundation (formerly the Twin City Area Catholic School Fund) and now serves as its president.

"In 1971 the fathers and mothers of the fund got together and said 'how can we provide support to Catholic education in Southwest Michigan?'"

Over time, John explains, the foundation has become a significant support and subsidy system to Our Lady of the Lake school.

"The foundation is blessed to be available for family tuition subsidies, emergency needs at the school and for the support of our teachers through technology grants made possible by the support of the Caryl DaDan Technology Fund," explains John. "And, in the last five years the foundation has been able to provide over \$1.7 million in total support to Catholic Education at Our Lady."

Additionally, the foundation provides annual endowed support for maintenance and technology.

"We just helped to purchase 100 new Chromebooks for elementary students," notes John.

And now his alma mater stands at a monumental



time in its history — recently announcing its name change from Lake Michigan Catholic to Our Lady of the Lake but retaining the much loved nickname, "Lakers".

"I understand that changing the name 'Lakers' was never in consideration," explains John. "Identifying clearly and definitively as Catholic was the key for the conversation for changing the name."

Johns believes this is the start "of many great things to come" but he's also quick to add that changing the name alone is not the secret for success.

"A name change does nothing to change the trajectory — that's where the leadership comes in." John credits Fr. John Fleckenstein, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, for his strategic planning and drawing inspiration from the writings of his predecessors from years ago. "We need to invite people into evangelization of our school. We have to be advocates."

So how will Catholic education thrive into the future?

"We need to clearly define who we are as Catholics and never apologize for it — ever. I pray that's the formula for growth in Catholic school participation, enrollment and a better understanding of the value of Catholic Education in Southwest Michigan." †

19



Catholic school enters new era with new name

STAFF REPORT

new era for Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) schools began with the announcement that LMC is becoming Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School. The announcement was made official on March 2, 2022. The new name reflects the school's renewed focus on education. faith and citizenship, a charge led by canonical pastor Father John D. Fleckenstein.



"Our school started with the goal of giving children a good education and good moral training," says Father Fleckenstein. "We want them to be good citizens and build their lives on a foundation of the Catholic faith. While we call this a 'new era,' it is in many ways a return to our roots."

During a school-wide assembly, Bishop Paul J. Bradley addressed the students, detailing the rich history of the Catholic roots in the area.

"While you remain Lakers forever," he said, "to be now continuing your education under the Patronage of our Blessed Mother is an additional blessing to the education that you have been receiving, and will continue to receive, here at Our Lady of the Lake.

"Our Catholic Faith came first to life here in what would become Michigan way back in the 1600s, and the first Catholic School finds its beginnings way back in the late 1800s."

Additionally, those roots include fostering a stronger Catholic culture, with faith infused in every classroom and more time dedicated to communal prayer. A yearly service requirement will give students the opportunity to turn their faith into action, emphasizing the importance of servant leadership in the community.

"We aren't just teaching our students the principles of Catholicism," says Father Fleckenstein. "We are instilling in them a desire to reflect Jesus to those around them. We want our students to be the ones who change the world for the better."

During the assembly Bishop Bradley affirmed the value

of a Catholic education to the student body saving, "Living our lives in this world from a perspective of our Catholic faith enables us, first of all, to see ourselves as valued and worthwhile in God's sight and by those here in this School who dedicate their lives to educating and helping to form you as Catholics. But then, being educated from a perspective of Faith also enables you - and encourages you — to see one another — and all people — as valued and worthy of respect and the dignity that every human being should have, because we are all made in the 'image and likeness of God."

While LMC's commitment to academic excellence is well established, Father Fleckenstein plans to lead an in-depth examination of the curriculum, as compared to the top Catholic schools in the United States. He also plans to seek National Blue Ribbon status from the U.S. Department of Education and explore more prestigious accreditations that will elevate the student

"WE AREN'T JUST TEACHING OUR STUDENTS THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLICISM. WE ARE INSTILLING IN THEM A DESIRE TO REFLECT JESUS TO THOSE AROUND THEM. WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO BE THE ONES WHO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER."

- Fr. John D. Fleckenstein

experience. These efforts and many more are supported by a \$250,000 gift from a private donor.

"This is an important moment in the rich history of Catholic education in St. Joseph — the very place where hundreds of years ago French missionaries arrived to spread the Catholic faith," says Bishop Paul J. Bradley. "I am confident this new direction will propel the school into the future as it continues to

exemplify the three pillars of the mission incorporated into the new logo: education, faith and citizenship — with our faith rightly at the center of all we do."

Berrien County's first
Catholic school was built in
1869. By 1945, the area had
two Catholic schools: The Ponies of St. Joseph's and The
Irish of St. John's. The two
schools merged in 1969 and
were renamed Lake Michigan Catholic Schools and
received a new mascot: the
Lakers. LMC will maintain
its identity as the Lakers,
along with its existing school
colors, when it becomes Our
Lady of the Lake.

"'Our Lady' is a tribute to the Blessed Mother, while 'of the Lake' is a nod to Lake Michigan and a promise that we are 'Lakers Forever,'" explains Father Fleckenstein. 'Catholic School' is an acknowledgment that we are grounded in our Catholic faith, and that we are one united school with two campuses."

campuses."

The new name will be fully in effect for the 2022-23 school year. †

21





How Catholics Walk with MOMS IN NEED

hen Tee'aira Adams became pregnant with her first child, she "was so lost."

"I didn't know what I was going to do ... how do you take care of a baby?" she said, recounting her experience at the time.

Tee'aira's sisters recommended Caring Network, a Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo ministry for moms in need. It's been six years since that initial contact, and Tee'aira is now mother to three children, in cosmetology school and running her own small business.

Accompanying Tee'aira along her journey have been the staff and volunteers of Caring Network, who surround mothers with the love and support they need but might not have.

"They have helped me cover every aspect of being a mother, being an adult. They have been there for me when I didn't know what to do," Tee'aira said, whose voice became emotional as she shared her experience.

Tee'aira's story is just one of thousands of how Catho-

JACOB KANCLERZ

PHOTOS BY

JOHN GRAP

lic agencies such as Caring Network have been there for moms who need support. Caring Network has assisted more than 7.500 mothers who chose life for their children.

"Our mission is to provide services just like Jesus Christ," said Marti Jensen, family support specialist case manager for the "Parents as Teachers" program and supervisor at Caring Network, who has worked with Tee'aira over the years.

"We're not here to judge them, we're here to open up our arms and help them."

The debate over abortion regulation is again front and center in the minds of many across the country, as the U.S. Supreme Court considers a case that could overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 court ruling allowing for abortion in every state.

In Michigan, abortion advocates have unveiled a proposal to enshrine abortion in the state constitution.

While the tragedy of abortion rightly receives ample attention because it affects the most vulnerable among us — the unborn — the Church has no shortage of concern for women and the challenges they face in their vocation to motherhood.

That concern for mothers and babies has transformed into action. From the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) down to the parish level, to Catholic Charities, the Knights of Columbus and more, the Church is continually reaching out to mothers in difficult situations.

The Church ministry also stretches to women who undergo abortion, offering opportunities to heal and cope with the grief they may experience (see the Project Rachel sidebar on page 24). At Caring Network and other Catholic-supported pregnancy centers, that care and encouragement is shown in many ways.

Physical needs are addressed: food, housing, clothes, car seats and toys to name a few. At the Caring Network building in Kalamazoo, there's a shower and bathroom that anyone can use, as well as a kitchen and laundry

room. There's also a pantry filled with children's clothes, maternity clothes, hygienic products, cleaning supplies and more.

From watching her children while she completed job training to helping her put food on the table and clothes on her children, Tee'aira said Catholic Charities Caring Network has "done everything."

Even providing Tee'aira with maternity clothes "was more than a blessing, that was truly a miracle," she said. Tee'aira explained maternity clothes are important for staying comfortable as her body changed throughout pregnancy, but because they're more expensive they were more of a luxury that she wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise.

But it's not just material needs. Caring Network and other Catholic Charities agencies go beyond immediate physical needs by offering services like parenting classes.

When Tee'aira first came to Caring Network, she wasn't sure how to be a parent. She still reminds Jensen at

Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative



Helping pregnancy centers access the technology so women can see the life inside of them is another ministry among many in the Church to serve mothers.

Leading the charge are the Knights of Columbus, who recently marked the 1,500th ultrasound machine they've donated to pregnancy centers. Local Knights of Columbus councils can raise up to 50% of the cost of an ultrasound machine - they typically run \$75,000 but can be discounted to \$45,000 — and the Knights' Supreme Council will agree to cover the other half.

In the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the Knights Councils have successfully raised funds to place nine ultrasounds.

- 2010 Women's Care Center, Niles
- · 2011 Lakeshore Pregnancy Center, Allegan
- 2013 Beginnings Care for Life Center in Coldwater (Council 2900)
- 2015 Alternatives, Battle Creek (Council 575)
- 2015 Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers (Council 4141)
- · 2016 Pregnancy Helpline of St. Joseph County In Sturgis (Council 2508)
- 2017 Holy Family Healthcare (Council 3798)
- 2018 Lakeshore Pregnancy Center, Inc in Allegan
- 2020 Pregnancy Helpline of Three Rivers for the mobile medical unit (Council 4141)

66

THEY HAVE **HELPED ME COVER EVERY** ASPECT OF BEING A MOTHER, BEING AN ADULT. THEY HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ME WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO."



Southwest Michigan Catholic | Summer 2022 diokzoo.org

Project Rachel provides hope to grieving parents after abortion

Approximately 60 million women and men in the U.S. have lost a child to abortion. More than half report some negative feelings. Millions suffer in silence from unresolved grief, anger and fear.

Project Rachel offers opportunities for reconciliation and healing for women, and for all, who suffer emotional and spiritual pain from an abortion experience. Project Rachel tries to reach out to others with the compassion and mercy of Christ encouraging everyone to learn about post-abortion healing and to listen with compassion.



PROJECT RACHEL OFFERS:

- A confidential phone line for a referral to a counselor or priest who will lead you through the process of mourning, while conveying the healing forgiveness and love offered by Christ.
- Individual counseling to help you deal with issues of anger, guilt and unexpressed grief.
- Support groups with others dealing with postabortion aftermath; group meetings include prayer, video lessons, scripture and personal reflection, and conclude with a healing prayer service or Mass.
- A library of books, brochures, articles, videos, audio cassette and other materials available in both English and Spanish.
- Speakers available for presentations to church, school, college, youth groups and adult education classes.
- Memorial prayer services, Mass and other events held throughout the year for all who grieve the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, SID, neonatal loss, illness, accident or suicide.



PROJECT RACHEL RETREATS

Designed for women and men, the retreat is a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. Held in a private location, the retreat process is an opportunity to experience the mercy and compassion of God, surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame and guilt, and grieve the loss of your unborn child or children. For more information or to register, call 800-800-8284 or email mwalsh@ccwestmi.org. Financial assistance is available. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



 $Caring\ Network\ of\ this\ today.$

"I remember asking her, what am I supposed to do with this baby?" Tee'aira said.

Jensen said a client of Caring Network suggested they offer parenting classes, so now they do, both in terms of helping women's interactions with their children and in self-care. They also help to equip parents to prepare their kids for lifelong learning.

"When you don't have knowledge about how to care for someone who is dependent of you, you don't know what you're up against, and the fear of the unknown can cause you to react in a negative way," Tee'aira said.

With Caring Network at her side, "I was able to learn, OK, what does it take to be a good mother?"

For some mothers, whether they consider an abortion could come down to whether they feel they have support for the child they're bringing into the world. If the support isn't there, a woman may feel abortion is her only option.

That rang true for Tee'aira when she found out she was pregnant again following the birth of her first child, Jasmine, who is now six years old. Tee'aira wasn't convinced she had enough

to support another child, which is why abortion was an option she considered.

"Going into being a mother, you don't think your child will have everything that they need," she said. "And that's why abortion is such a big deal for most families, because you don't want to bring another life into the earth if you can't provide for that life ... which is one of the options that I considered taking."

Tee'aira remained connected to Caring Network since her first pregnancy, who told her she had other options if she carried her pregnancy to term, such as adoption.

"With them saying no matter what I choose, I would still have their support, that really helped and it gave me comfort and I decided to keep my children," she said.

Those children turned out to be a set of twins: Emorie and Sabrina, now three years old.

"Just knowing somebody's there, a lot of times, just knowing that there's somebody in their corner, and they're going to help them through this, "Jensen said, when asked what changes the mind of mothers considering an abortion. †





Ave Maria Mutual Funds take a PRO-LIFE, PRO-FAMILY approach to investing. Our proprietary screening process examines corporate compliance with Catholic teachings regarding abortion, pornography and policies undermining the sacrament of marriage. Investments are made only in companies that do not violate core teachings of the Catholic Church as set by our distinguished Catholic Advisory Board.

1-866-AVE-MARIA (1-866-283-6274) avemariafunds.com

Mutual Fund investing involves risk, principal loss is possible. Request a prospectus, which includes investment objectives, risks, fees, charges and expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing. The prospectus can be obtained by calling 1-866-283-6274 or it can be viewed at www.avemariafunds.com. Distributed by Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC.

POR M. VERONICA RODRIGUEZ



BY M. VERONICA RODRIGUEZ



on the Road

UMMER IS APPROACHING AND FOR MANY
THIS MEANS FAMILY VACATIONS OR PERHAPS
TRIPS ABROAD TO LEARN ABOUT A CULTURE
DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN. FOR SOME PEOPLE
IN OUR DIOCESE, SUMMER MEANS WALKING AND
LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH, NOT THROUGH
BOOKS AND CLASSES BUT THROUGH ACTION.

As you may know, migrant farmworkers come to our diocese every summer to work in the crop fields such as asparagus, strawberries, blueberries and many others. There are a total of approximately 300 camps in the nine counties of the Diocese of



For some people in our diocese, summer means walking and learning more about our faith, not through books and classes but through action." Kalamazoo. Although migrant farmworkers arrive in all nine counties, the vast majority arrive in Allegan, Berrien and Van Buren counties. These counties are the ones closest to the lake and where most crops are grown.

We have had the great privilege that, since the beginning of our diocese, the mission has been to accompany the farmworkers during the summer so that they know that the Diocese of Kalamazoo is here to support them in whatever they need and that they are not alone. It doesn't matter if they are Catholic or not, our mission is to accompany and support them. Every



LEARN MORE about getting involve

about getting involved with migrant ministry

CONTACT:

M. Veronica Rodriguez Hispanic/Migrant Affairs 269-381-9800 EXT. 213

summer, through the Office of Hispanic Ministry, priests and religious sisters are brought to strengthen this ministry of accompaniment and to visit each of these 300 camps. In addition to the diocesan group, several parishes have volunteer groups who also visit the camps. Visits are made during once a week beginning at the end of June and continuing throughout July and sometimes August. The visits are no more than an hour, so as not to extend the already-long workday and are simply meant to offer a little conversation and allow volunteers from the diocese to get to know the families and men who have come to our diocese. These conversations are very enriching, and several of the volunteers have

expressed that many times one learns and receives more than what we offer. It is a time to meet Jesus in the midst of each one of our migrant brothers and sisters who. with all their difficulties, great fatigue and sometimes shortcomings, are the happiest and most grateful people with God. This is where, through such a small action, our faith, and the mission that God has entrusted to us to accompany, evangelize and be evangelized is strengthened. A simple game to pass the time, some reading or Bible talk, or simply being there to listen has a greater impact than one can imagine.

I invite you not to take a vacation from your faith this summer, but rather, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, wherever we are, to be open to meet that stranger who, by walking and accompanying us, strengthens our faith.

May almighty God guide and grant the necessary words to each of the people who will be visiting and accompanying our migrant brothers and sisters this summer of 2022. †

PARISHES WITH A MIGRANT MINISTRY GROUP:

- Immaculate Conception, Hartford
- San Felipe de Jesús, Fennville
- St. Thomas More,
- Kalamazoo
- St. Joseph, KalamazooSt. Joseph, Battle Creek
- Ss. John/Bernard,
 Benton Harbor
- St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs

- Holy Angels, Sturgis
- St. Basil. South Haven
- St. Mary, Niles
- St. Mary's Assumption, Bronson
- St. Martin of Tours*, Vicksburg
- St. Catherine of Siena, Portage
- St. Jude, Gobles

*volunteers at Aleman Center

NUESTRA FE en Camino

L VERANO SE ACERCA Y PARA MUCHOS ESTO SIGNIFICA VACACIONES EN FAMILIA O QUIZÁS VIAJES AL EXTRANJERO PARA APRENDER SOBRE UNA CULTURA DIFERENTE A LA NUESTRA. PARA ALGUNAS PERSONAS EN NUESTRA DIÓCESIS, EL VERANO SIGNIFICA CAMINAR Y APRENDER MÁS SOBRE NUESTRA FE, PERO NO POR MEDIO DE LIBROS Y CLASES SINO POR MEDIO DE LA ACCIÓN.

Como quizás se sepa, a nuestra diócesis cada verano vienen campesinos migrantes para trabajar en las cosechas en los campos de cultivos tal como en el espárrago, la fresa, blueberries, y otros más. Hay un total de aproximadamente 300 campos en los 9 condados de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo. Aunque los campesinos migrantes llegan a todos los nueve condados, la gran mayoría llegan a los condados de Allegan, Berrien, y Van Buren. Estos condados son los que están mas cerca del lago y donde está la gran mayoría de los cultivos.

Hemos tenido el gran privilegio de que, desde el inicio de nuestra Diócesis, se ha tenido la misión de acompañar a los campesinos durante el verano para que sepan que su Diócesis de Kalamazoo está aquí para apoyarlos en lo que necesiten y que no están solos. No importa si son católicos o no, nuestra misión es de acompañarlos y apoyarlos. Cada





El Centro Alemán, localizado en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, Hartford, MI, durante los meses del verano ayuda a las familias migrantes que están en necesidad de comida y algunos artículos. Todo es gratuito. Lleva este nombre en honor al Diácono Eugenio Alemán de origen mexicano y quien dedicó su vida a la ayuda de las personas recién llegadas al área o que necesitaban algún tipo de ayuda. Maggie Ebrite de la Parroquia de St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo, es la coordinadora del centro y el centro cuenta con voluntario de St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo y St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg.

verano por medio de la oficina del Ministerio Hispano se traen sacerdotes y hermanas religiosas para fortalecer este ministerio de acompañamiento y poder visitar a cada uno de estos 300 campos. Además del grupo diocesano, varias parroquias tienen grupos de voluntarios quienes también visitan los campos. Las visitas se hacen durante un día de la semana comenzando finales de junio y todo julio y/o agosto. Las visitas no son de más de una hora máximo para no alargar más el día pesado de trabajo y simplemente son para conversar un poco y conocer mejor a las familias y hombres quienes han llegado a nuestra diócesis. Estas conversaciones son muy enriquecedoras y varias de las personas que son voluntarios han expresado que muchas de las veces uno aprende y recibe más de lo que ofrece. Es un tiempo para encontrarnos con Jesus en medio de cada uno de nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes que, con todas las

dificultades, el gran cansancio y a veces carencias, son las personas más alegres y agradecidas con Dios. Aquí es donde por medio de una acción tan pequeña, se fortalece nuestra fe y la misión que nos ha confiado Dios de acompañar, evangelizar y ser evangelizados. Un simple juego para pasar el tiempo, alguna lectura o charla bíblica o simplemente estar allí presente para escuchar tiene un impacto mayor de lo que uno se puede imaginar.

Los invito a que este verano no tomen vacaciones de su fe si no que, así como los discípulos en el camino a Emaús, en cualquier lugar que nos encontremos, estemos abiertos para encontrarnos con aquel desconocido quien caminando y acompañándonos hace fortalecer nuestra fe.

Que Dios todo poderoso guie y otorgué las palabras necesarias a cada una de las personas quienes estaremos visitando y acompañando a nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes en este verano 2022. †

ORDINATION

TWO
DIOCESAN
SEMINARIANS
RECEIVE

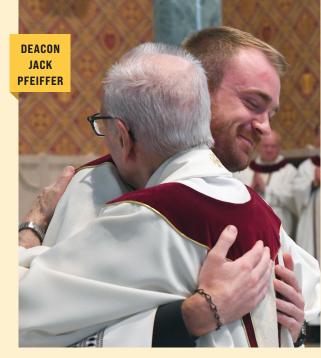
PHOTOS BY JOHN GRAP

wo diocesan seminarians received the Sacrament of Holy Orders recently. Jacob Thomas was ordained to the priesthood and Deacon Jack Pfeiffer was ordained a transitional deacon.



The Sacrament of Holy Orders

- THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF DEACONS:
- ► Transitional when a seminarian is ordained a deacon months or years prior to being ordained a priest
- ▶ Permanent men who plan to permanently serve the Church as deacons. deacons can distribute Holy Communion, baptize and officiate marriages, and THEY can also preach the homily at Mass and expose the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration.
- Only bishops and priests may consecrate the bread and wine into the Body and Blood, administer confirmation, hear confessions and anoint the sick. Only bishops may confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- Unlike other Sacraments, Holy Orders are not received all at once, but can be spread ACROSS three stages. deacon, priest and bishop are not different sacraments but different orders of the same sacrament Holy Orders. At each stage, there is an imprinting of a character upon the soul, granting the increasing right, sacramental grace and power of each stage, respectively. †



▲ Deacon Jack Pfeiffer hugs his longtime pastor, Father Don Klingler, pastor emeritus, at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Otsego.



Bishop Bradley offers the Lectionary to newly ordained deacon.

transitional deacon.

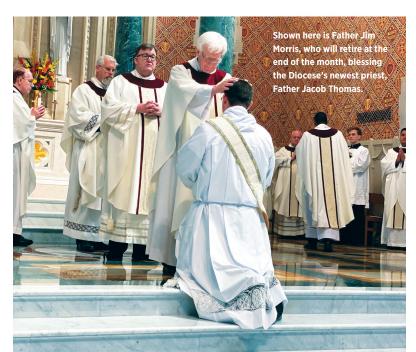
▲ Father José Haro, Director of Vocations, left, assists with vesting the newly ordained priest.

LAYING ON OF HANDS:

The candidate becomes a priest during the Laying on of Hands. The bishop first places his hands on the candidate's head and recites the Prayer of Ordination. At this moment, the bishop confers the Holy Spirit upon him.



▲ The candidate lies prostrate on the floor while the bishop, priests and parishioners recite the Litany of Saints, calling out to the communion of saints for their strength and support. They also ask that the saints intercede to God on the candidate's behalf.





LOCAL NEWS

Holy Family Healthcare expanding —

halfway to fundraising goal

When Deacon Don Bouchard started Holy Family Healthcare, he envisioned a practice focused on offering healthcare to its patients, not solely medicine. Now, thanks to a matching grant initiative from Catholic Extension, the practice is preparing to move from its current 1,400-square-foot office with four exam rooms to a 4,100-square-foot-office with eight exam rooms and four dental operatories. The practice will be adding family practice, internal medicine, women and girls' health as well as a pediatric dental practice.

"We will have a chapel on site," notes Deacon Don, "as well as each room will be dedicated to a particular saint. For instance. Blessed Carlos Acutis will be the saint of our telehealth room, and St. Gianna Molla will be the saint of one of our women and girls' health rooms."



The diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality held its final listening session on Pentecost during its closing event, "Celebrating the Holy Spirit."

I have been so amazed at how the Holy Spirit has been gently and effectively, through His Divine power, leading us here in our Diocese, during some very challenging times," said Bishop Bradley in his opening comments. "The Synod on Synodality is focused on calling us to be better listeners — to be more docile, open, willing, anxious even, to know what is the Holy Spirit's plan for the Church, rather than to always focus on what our own plan for the Church is."

The Synod Planning Committee reports that 47 sessions were held with more than 500 participants. Based on that feedback



Deacon Don adds that he's also interested in being a beacon of hope for the community.

"On the outside of the building we have a sign that reads Oremus Pro Invicem, which translates into "Let us pray for one another." My hope is that having the sign printed in Latin will be enough to pique the interest of passersby to have them Google it and remind them that we need to pray for one another."

Currently Holy Family Healthcare has raised close to \$130,000 toward its goal of \$300,000 needed to meet the matching grant from Catholic Extension.



Donate online at holyfamilyhealthcare.org

through Paypal or Venmo; or mail checks to Holy Family Healthcare, 301 N. Center St., Hartford, MI 49057. +

a final summary report of participants' input is being finalized and will be sent to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The conference will then synthesize all the diocesan reports from across the country and send to the Vatican.

"We need the grace of the Holy Spirit day-in and day-out over the course of our lifetime to keep us alive in Christ and to help us recover when we fall into our old sinful ways," said Bishop Bradley in his concluding remarks. "And in a similar way, our beloved diocese needs the gifts of the Spirit to help us move from 'maintenance to mission,' from allowing ourselves to be comfortable with the way things are, rather than working to transform ourselves, our society, and our Church into the holy people that God calls us to be."

For more on the Synod process

and to read the final report visit: www.diokzoo.org/synod. +

Creative Connections

Creative Connections, a virtual gathering for persons with disabilities, seeks to build community and offer an opportunity for faith sharing and support. It takes place every other month on the third Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Upcoming 2022 dates are July 17, Sept. 18 and Nov. 20. To learn more or to register go to diokzoo.org/personswithdisabilities or contact Lisa Irwin at 269-381-9800 x 227 or lisairwin@ccdok.org. A Zoom link will be sent to those who register. +

Diocese of Kalamazoo **Caregiver Connection**

The Diocese of Kalamazoo Caregiver Connection is a monthly Zoom gathering that offers community, support and faith sharing to those caring for a loved one living with a disability. Recently, a participant remarked, "This is a spot of grace, mercy, kindness and love." Caregiver Connection meets on the first Sunday of the month (except on holiday weekends when it moves to the second Sunday) from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. To learn more or to register go to diokzoo.org/caregivers or contact Lisa Irwin at the Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo 269-381-9800 x227 or by email at lisairwin@ccdok.org. Remaining 2002 dates are July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 11, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. +

Coming Soon! "Building a **Eucharistic Marriage**"

"Building a Eucharistic Marriage" is a dynamic, seven-session series that is designed for couples at all stages, whether you're an engaged couple just starting out or a more seasoned couple celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary. Thanks to a matching grant from the Catholic Marriage Initiative Fund and support from private donors, the diocesan office of Marriage and Family ministry is working with parishes across the diocese to offer this program to its parishioners. St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo, will begin the series this August and other parishes are jumping on board as well. If you're interested in learning more about how you can strengthen your relationship, contact Socorro Truchan, Associate Director, Parish Life and Lay Leadership, struchan@ diokzoo.org. For more information, visit diokzoo.org/marriage-enrichment +



In Memoriam: Father Larry Farrell, beloved pastor of St. Monica Parish for 21 years



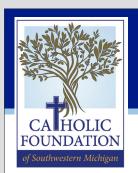
Beloved pastor, father, husband, grandfather and priest, Rev. Lawrence Farrell entered into eternal life on March 20, 2022. after several months of health challenges. Father Farrell lived his life to serve others, and was always quick with a joke. He cared for

others with compassion and understanding, a confidant of many. Father Farrell attended Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School in St. Louis and graduated from St. Louis University High School. He then continued his studies at St. Louis University and St. Louis University Law School in the 1960s. He married Jane Marie Brosnan and welcomed three children, Lawrence III, Maura and Andrew. The family relocated to Kalamazoo in 1972, where Larry expanded both his business and his golf abilities. After almost 30 years of marriage, Jane preceded him in death in 1995. Larry began feeling the call to the priesthood and, inspired by golf buddy and close friend Father Robert Consani, he joined the seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on April 21, 2001. He not only served the St. Monica Parish community for 21 years, but he also served in various diocesan roles including director of the propagation of the fFaith, chairman of the Priest Retirement Board, Diocesan Presbyteral Council, and chaplain for the Catholic Committee on Scouting. He also served as canonical pastor for St. Mary Parish and Hackett Catholic Prep.

Even though he lived the busy life of a parish priest, he also cared deeply for his children and grandchildren and attended all of their birthdays and special events.

"While Father Farrell's journey to the priesthood was unique, he drew upon his own rich experiences to journey alongside his parish families," said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. "Additionally, Father was unwavering in his commitment to the protection of unborn babies and cultivated a strong devotion within his parish community. We pray in a special way for peace and consolation for his children and their families and for the St. Monica Parish community he so lovingly served for the last 21 years. May God grant him the Heavenly rewards of his labors here in the Vinevard of the Lord."

Father Farrell was 77 years old and is survived by his three children, four grandchildren and a multitude of family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Jane Farrell and daughter-in-law Janice Farrell. +



Share Jesus' gospel message and help build God's kingdom here on earth through a legacy gift to the

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

of Southwestern Michigan



Your legacy gift helps ensure that our local Church and its many ministries will continue to flourish and serve for generations to come.

The Foundation welcomes outright gifts of cash, securities, and other marketable assets. Donors who make their gifts during their lifetime enjoy the benefit of witnessing the immediate results of their generosity, along with the peace of mind in knowing their gift will continue to provide financial support in the future.

> Our team is ready to assist you in maximizing your charitable and spiritual goals.

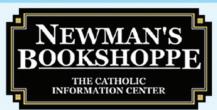
Discover more and create you legacy today • cfswm.org • 269-349-8714

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

215 N. Westnedge Ave. • Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Stop in to shop our great gift selection and find the perfect inspirational gift for every occasion!

First Missals • White gloves & ties • Gift Bibles • Medals • Rosaries

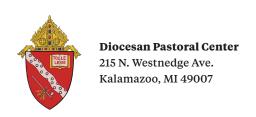


340 East Michigan Ave. in downtown Kalamazoo Mon-Fri: 9 am-6 pm • Sat: 10 am-4 pm • Phone: 269.553.0482 www.newmansbookshoppe.com

Free parking in from of the store on both sides of Michigan Ave.

FIRST IN SAVINGS ZEMLICK FIRST IN SERVICE www.zemlick.com





INSPIRED BY THE



SHARING GOD'S GIFTS IN LOVE & SERVICE









BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2022



DIOCESE
OF
KALAMAZOO
www.diokzoo.org