The Official Publication for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

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THE GOOD NEWS

Pope makes first trip to the United States

Locals reflect on historic papal visit

By **Vicki Cessna**

Pope Francis' first trip to the United States captivated the country for six days as the 78-year-old pontiff navigated a packed daily schedule which included everything from meetings with world leaders to lunch with the homeless. At each of his stops, Washington, D.C., New York and Philadelphia, the Holy Father inspired thousands with his pastoral and heartfelt speeches and tireless witness to the faith.

Bishop Paul J. Bradley was one of only 12 bishops who was able to personally greet Pope Francis during Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, D.C. During his brief encounter he was able to convey the prayers and well wishes from the people in the diocese.

For extended coverage of the papal visit see pages 6-7.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute kicks off

The inaugural group of lay leaders in the new Lay Eccelesial Ministry Institute has officially begun the program. Saturday, Sept. 19, the 35 lay leaders from around the diocese began their three year journey delving into what it means to be a lay leader, discerning personal gifts and charisms, growing in faith and knowledge of the Catholic Church, and acquiring valuable pastoral skills.

Sam and Shannon Sheets, parishioners at St. Augustine Cathedral, are two of the lay leaders in the program's first class. They decided to apply for the LEMI program in hopes of strengthening their knowledge of the Catholic faith and develop skills useful in promoting and encouraging Catholic values.

"Since the first session, we have become particularly interested in discerning our charisms and how was can use them to better help the Church," says Sam Sheets. "We hope the program will create more intentional disciples."

The Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute meets once per month eight times each year at Transformations Spirituality Center in Kalamazoo, with winter and summer breaks. LEMI seeks to prepare lay women and men for roles of service to and leadership in and for the local Church.

"We have a great group of lay people from throughout the diocese," says Deacon Kurt Lucas, Executive Director of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation. "They all seem very excited to grow in faith and service. We are looking forward to discovering how the Lord will work through them."

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Pray and give generously

Read more about how you can support WORLD MISSION SUNDAY — page 8

October 18, 2015

Deacon passionate about evangelization set to headline annual diocesan conference

By **Sarah DeMott**

Dcn. Keith Strohm

When Deacon Keith Strohm was in college, he became active in youth ministry. The more he worked with youth, the more it became clear to him that what was lacking was a relationship, a living relationship, with Christ. Now, with 25 years of practical, hands-on experience in evangelization and his new position as Director of New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Chicago, Strohm is equipped to bring the theological, theoretical and practical level together in his speaking engagements, including the keynote for the diocesan New Evangelization Conference on Oct. 24.

"Even though I didn't have the language then, 'the new evangelization,' has always been the ministry I have been working in," said Strohm.

Attending a Called and Gifted conference by the Catherine of Siena Institute was a turning point for Deacon Strohm. The Institute was founded to help parishes equip lay people to be disciples of Christ. Eventually, Strohm became a teacher for the Institute, traveling the world discussing the new evangelization.

The Making Disciples program, a four-day intense experience which includes discussions of church teaching, today's culture, sociological studies, Pew religious landscape studies and more, helped uncover a crisis at the parish level when it came to discipleship.

"There was no category for what a lay person's purpose was," says Strohm. "A lot of the creative apostolic and evangelic energy was taken by ordained ministers. There was no clear understanding of how to be what Pope Francis refers to as lay apostles and missionary disciples."

Strohm was ordained a deacon of the Archdiocese of Chicago this past summer. For Strohm, diaconate formation was the answer to a pull to serve the Church that was unfulfilled by his evangelization work.

"Becoming a deacon was the way in which the Lord had intended me to experience the most fulfillment and the best way for me to serve the world," says Strohm. "Identity as a deacon allows me now to be able to talk with people I wouldn't have otherwise, even something as simple as being able to preach at Mass allows me to reach new people and I believe the Lord is using that."

According to Strohm, we have to stop identifying evangelization as something the church does. "Pope Paul VI said evangelization is the Church's deepest and most profound identity. So it isn't what the Church does, it is what the Church is." I think a lot of people want to evangelize but they have no idea how to do it.

The diocesan annual New Evangelization Conference will be Saturday, Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Online registration is ioen through Oct. 21 at www.diokzoo.org

This year's theme is "Missionaries in the New Evangelization".
Along with Deacon Strohm's keynote, Sr. Elizabeth Ann Allen O.P. will be the featured speaker for the Catholic school teachers' track.

The conference will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Bradley at 9 a.m.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Victoria Cessna
Communication Director & Editor of *The Good News*

Luminous. Marvelous word, isn't it? Say it aloud and there's even a lilting melody to it.

Luminous.

Last month I had the amazing honor to be inside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City during the Evening Prayer Service with Pope Francis. I was assisting the international media onsite, and as we were seated at the side altar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, basking in the stunning beauty of the newly restored, magnificent cathedral, one of the radio announcers, giving an early report to his listeners, described the scene as "luminous." And the word stuck.

What's incredible about my media colleague's appropriate word choice is that he couldn't have possibly known that all of us in the cathedral, excitedly and patiently waiting for the arrival of Pope Francis, would soon be praying the "Luminous" mysteries of the rosary during the prelude program. A God wink, perhaps? The Luminous Mysteries of the rosary, sometimes also called the Mysteries of Light, were given to us in 2002 by St. John Paul II and focus on the public life of Jesus in the five mysteries: 1-His baptism in the River Jordan; 2-His first miracle at the wedding at Cana; 3-His proclamation of the Kingdom of God; 4-His Transfiguration; and 5-the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

These "luminous" meditations allow us to focus in on the teaching ministry and witness of Jesus. As I was reflecting on how powerful this prayerful rosary experience was, I couldn't help but think how fitting a complement it is to the incredible witness of our Holy Father's own "public ministry" during his six-day, three-city tour of the United States. Pope Francis spoke to heads of state, dined with the homeless, joked with school children and inspired millions around the world with his simple yet profound wisdom. And all along the way his consistent request was, "Please pray for me." He even parceled out that request as homework to the Our Lady Queen of Angels schoolchildren in Harlem and his parting comments to them, in his perfectly practiced English, were, "Don't forget to do your homework."

My hope is that Pope Francis' own light, his "luminousness" that shone so brightly during his trip, will remain with us and inspire us. So during this month of the rosary I'm going to do my homework and honor the Holy Father's request to pray for him. Won't you join me?

[NOTE: For more on Vicki Cessna's experience behind the scenes during the Holy Father's trip visit:www.thevickifiles.blogspot.com].

Pope Francis OCTOBER Intentions

Universal: That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

***The Good News* for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo**

I hereby designate *The Good News* as the official publication of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. All notices and regulations, appointments, assignments, etc. issued under the caption "Official" are to be regarded as official communications of the Bishop of Kalamazoo. Opinion columns, features and letters to the editor that appear in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by *The Good News* or the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

+Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

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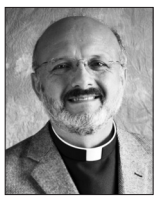
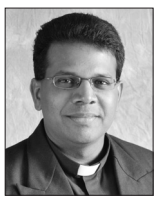
The mission of *The Good News*, therefore, is to enable its readers to grow in their Catholic faith, to develop as mature, well informed Catholics and to deepen their commitment to, and relationship with, the Lord, their Catholic faith and their Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley has announced the following priest assignments for the Diocese of Kalamazoo which become effective October 2015, unless otherwise noted.


Rev. Garzon

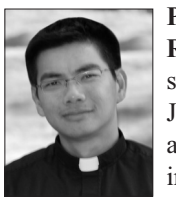
PASTOR:
Rev. Fabio Garzon currently serving as Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Douglas, has been appointed Pastor for Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford and San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Fennville. Previously the Pastor was Msgr. Leonel Cartanega, Diocese of Mocoa-Sibundoy, Colombia, who was recalled to his diocese at the request of the Archbishop this past July.


Rev. Ambrose

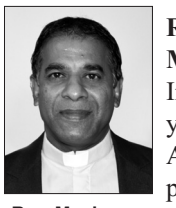
Rev. John Peter Ambrose, MSFS, currently canonical pastor for Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford, will remain Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Watervliet,

Rev. Witek

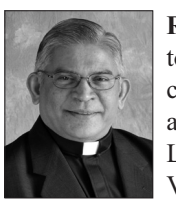
ADMINISTRATOR:
Rev. Stanley Witek, currently serving as Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage, has been appointed Administrator for St. Peter Parish, Douglas.


Rev. Huynh

PAROCHIAL VICARS:
Rev. Benjamin Huynh, currently serving as Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek, has been appointed Parochial Vicar, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage.


Rev. Manjooran

Rev. Simon Joseph Chummar Manjooran, a Salesian priest from India serving in our diocese for three years and currently Parochial Vicar, St. Ann Parish, Augusta, has been appointed Parochial Vicar for St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek.


Rev. Manalel

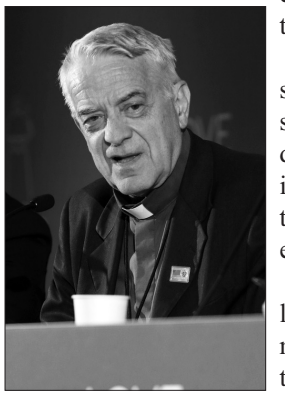
Rev. Matthew Manalel will continue to oversee sacramental and pastoral care for St. Ambrose mission, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak mission, Lacy. Fr. Manalel remains Parochial Vicar, St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, Kalamazoo.

Vatican says pope's meeting with Kentucky clerk is not endorsement

By **Cindy Wooden,** Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' meeting with Kim Davis, the county clerk from Kentucky who was jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses, does not equate support for her "position," the Vatican spokesman said after discussing the issue personally with the pope.

Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi, the spokesman, issued a statement Oct. 2 saying the pope had met with "several dozen persons who had been invited by the nunciature to greet him" in Washington and that "such brief greetings occur on all papal visits and are due to the pope's characteristic kindness and availability."


Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi

Fr. Lombardi made a distinction between the brief greetings and more official meetings by saying, "The only real audience granted by the pope at the nunciature was with one of his former students and his family."

When the pope met with Davis, Fr. Lombardi said, "the pope did not enter into the details of the situation of Mrs. Davis and his meeting with her should not be considered a form of support of her position in all of its particular and complex aspects."

Davis, the elected clerk of Rowan County, initially refused to grant marriage licenses to gay couples and then stopped issuing them to gay or straight couples, claiming that doing so would violate her Christian religious values after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled same-sex couples have a right to marry.

Fr. Lombardi wrote Oct. 2, he provided a clarification "in order to contribute to an objective understanding of what transpired."

Basilian Fr. Thomas Rosica, who assists Father Lombardi with the English-speaking press, told reporters later that depending on what people say after meeting the pope, it is clear "it could be distorted or manipulated; it could be exaggerated."

He added, "I would find it hard to believe" that Davis and her husband had 15 minutes with the pope; it was more likely that the pope greeted a group of people, including the Davis', and that all those greetings took 15 minutes or less.

Contributing to the story was Julie Asher in Washington and Carol Glatz at the Vatican.

Annual October counts conducted this month in parishes

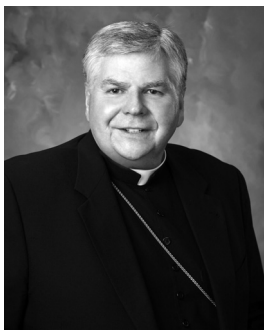
This month across the 59 parishes in the diocese ushers will count the number of Mass attendees at each weekend Mass. This annual tradition occurs at many dioceses across the United States in what's often referred to as "October Count." This is the sixth consecutive year an "October count" has been conducted in the diocese. Data gathered during this month is useful for many purposes including strategic planning and analyzing the effectiveness of Mass times. The month of October is chosen for its place within the "Ordinary Time" of the liturgical calendar when attendance is thought to be more representational then at other times such as Lent or Advent when attendance may swell due to the liturgical season. National studies from leading universities to Gallop polls suggest weekly Mass attendance is anywhere from 42 percent to 26 percent of all self-identified Catholics. Information gathered this month will be shared with pastors by the end of 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. Agnes Mullally, CSJ, passed away Sept. 16. Services were held at Holy Family Chapel, Nazareth. Sr. Agnes entered into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on Sept. 1, 1960. She pronounced first vows on Aug. 17, 1963 and final vows on Aug. 17, 1966. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Nazareth College and a Master's degree in special education from Southern Illinois University. She served as an elementary teacher for several schools including: St. Therese in Lansing, Holy Family in Grand Blanc, St. Mary and St. Thomas More Academy in Flint, and St. Patrick in Portland. She finished her ministry work supporting those who have experienced the death of a loved one and as an in-home tutor.

THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

Holy Father affirms sacred role of the family



It hardly seems possible that at this time last month our nation was awaiting the arrival of Pope Francis for his first visit ever to the United States and now that the pastoral visit is just a blessed memory we sit-back and reflect on the inspiring witness that Our Holy Father gave us and all the world. I was especially privileged to be able to personally greet him during his time with the bishops in Washington, D.C. I told him that I brought him all the good wishes, prayers and devotion of all the faithful people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. [see page 6 for more on my personal reflection of this visit.]

During his jam-packed six-day visit, Pope Francis repeatedly addressed the most basic and essential aspects of our faith and of society. He talked about love of God and neighbor; about compassionate care for the poor, the marginalized and powerless members of the human family; and at every opportunity he spoke about the beauty of marriage and family life. In fact, to attend the World Meeting of Families was the very reason he came to the United States, to help us further understand the meeting's wonderful theme, "Love is our Mission: the Family Fully Alive."

What struck me most during this historic pastoral visit was the Holy Father's amazing ability to combine simple wisdom with profound truth resulting in lasting impact on practically everyone. During many of his speeches and especially in his unscripted moments, the Holy Father encouraged the world, and each of us, to embrace what is important, what is of lasting value, what is most basic to the betterment of the world and what makes the human person "fully alive." We are truly blessed to have Pope Francis who speaks with such integrity, such clarity, such humility, all rooted in the Truth. He not only "talks the talk" but he "walks the walk" as well.

Upon reflection, however, the appeal of the Holy Father shouldn't be all that mysterious because he speaks the Truth that reaches to the core of the human person. It is in the very essence of our humanity where God has placed His own spirit, and as St. Augustine, our beloved diocesan patron, has said so eloquently: *there is something restless within the human heart that will only find rest when it rests in God*. What Pope Francis spoke about often during his visit was certainly rooted in religious convictions and doctrinal teachings, but it also extended even more deeply into our very human nature. That's precisely where God's Word made Flesh, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has spoken to the human heart, calling us to turn away from sin, and to live our lives by loving God and neighbor.

Our individual families are important to each of us, of course; but they are critically important to the very foundation and health of society. As Pope Francis said at World Youth Day last year in Rio de Janeiro:

> *"The family is important and necessary for the survival of humanity. Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family…is the foundation."* (July 27, 2014)

As we are all too aware, there are many forces in the culture today that are attacking the values and the supports for family life. We all know how those attacks come to us in a variety of disguises, hiding as good things, such as modern technology and ways to make life easier, but which are unknowingly, perhaps, undermining the family. That's why Pope Francis called for the Extraordinary Synod on the Family last year, attended the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia last month, and why the Ordinary Synod on the Family is currently taking place this month in Rome. Pope Francis is one of the leading voices in defending and protecting the family and it is important that we join our voices and our prayers to his.

While it is true that there are many attacks from external forces that are undermining the importance of the family, there can also be attacks from within. Earlier this Spring (May 13, 2015, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima), Pope Francis spoke about how important it is for each of us, members of families, husbands and wives, parents and children, consciously remember to say three phrases to one another every day: "May I?", "Thank you" and "I'm sorry". And to those three phrases, I would just add one more: "I love you!" Don't we all find it to be true that we sometimes take those with whom we live and who are closest to us for granted? That can begin by forgetting to express common courtesy such as asking "May I do this?", or "Thank you for preparing such a delicious meal," or "I'm so sorry for upsetting you or hurting your feelings." And we should never let a day go by without saying to those closest to us: "I love you!"

God Himself is a Family of Persons: the Father's eternal love for the Son, which brings forth through that love their Holy Spirit — three Divine Persons, one God — a basic and essential mystery of our faith. But in some other ways, families are also a type of divine mystery of love: husbands and wives loving one another, and through their love, bringing forth children to carry on the human race and to continue to serve the needs of society and the world, and destined for eternal life with God in Heaven. And that is the way our God has made us as human beings, in His image and likeness, to live as one big family, in the midst of our own individual families. We are sons and daughters of God; we are brothers and sisters of one an-

Continued on page 4

LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

El Santo Padre afirma el papel sagrado de la familia

Parece mentira que en este momento el mes pasado nuestra nación estaba a la espera de la llegada del Papa Francisco en su primera visita a los Estados Unidos y ahora que la visita pastoral es sólo una bendecida memoria nos sentamos y reflexionamos sobre el testimonio inspirador que nuestro Santo Padre nos dio a nosotros y a todo el mundo. Fui especialmente privilegiado de poder saludarlo personalmente durante su tiempo con los obispos en Washington, D.C. le dije que le traía todos los buenos deseos, oraciones y devociones de todos los fieles de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo. [ver página 6 por más de mi reflexión personal de esta visita.]

Durante su repleta visita de seis días, el Papa Francisco repetidamente abordo en varias ocasiones los aspectos más básicos y esenciales de nuestra fe y de la sociedad. Habló sobre el amor a Dios y al prójimo; sobre el cuidado compasivo para con los pobres, los miembros marginados e impotentes de la familia humana; y en cada oportunidad habló sobre la belleza del matrimonio y la vida familiar. De hecho, el motivo por el que vino a los Estados Unidos fue para asistir al Encuentro Mundial de las Familias, para ayudarnos a comprender aún más el maravilloso tema de la reunión, "El amor es nuestra misión: la familia llena de vida."

Lo que más me llamo la atención durante esta histórica visita pastoral fue la increíble capacidad del Santo Padre para combinar simple sabiduría con la verdad profunda resultando en un impacto duradero en prácticamente todo el mundo. Durante muchos de sus discursos y especialmente en sus momentos sin guión, el Santo Padre alentó al mundo, y a cada uno de nosotros, a abrazar lo que es importante, lo que es de valor duradero, lo que es lo más básico para mejorar el mundo y lo que hace a una persona humana "plenamente viva." Estamos verdaderamente bendecidos de tener al Papa Francisco que habla con tanta integridad, tal claridad, tanta humildad, todo arraigado en la Verdad. Él no sólo "predica con palabras", sino que también "vive lo que predica."

Pensándolo bien, sin embargo, el atractivo del Santo Padre no debería ser tan misterioso porque el habla la Verdad que alcanza el núcleo de la persona humana. Es en la esencia misma de nuestra humanidad en la que Dios ha puesto su propio espíritu, y, como San Agustín, nuestro amado patrono diocesano, ha dicho con tanta elocuencia: "Hay algo en el corazón humano que está inquieto, que solo descansara cuando descanse en Dios." Lo que el Papa Francisco habló muchas veces durante su visita, sin duda arraigada en convicciones religiosas y enseñanzas doctrinales, pero también se extiende aún más profundamente en nuestra naturaleza humana. Es precisamente donde la Palabra de Dios se hizo carne, Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador, ha hablado al corazón humano, llamándonos a abandonar el pecado y vivir nuestras vidas amando a Dios y al prójimo.

Nuestras familias individuales son importantes para cada uno de nosotros, por supuesto; pero son de vital importancia para el fundamento y la salud de la sociedad. Como dijo el Papa Francisco en la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud el año pasado en Río de Janeiro:

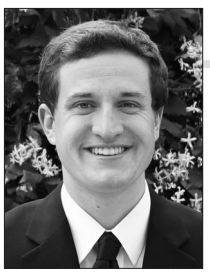
> *"La familia es importante y necesaria para la supervivencia de la humanidad. Sin la familia, la supervivencia cultural de la raza humana estaría en riesgo. La familia.... es la base." (27 de julio de 2014)*

Como somos todos muy conscientes, hay muchas fuerzas en la cultura de hoy que están atacando los valores y los apoyos para la vida familiar. Todos sabemos cómo esos ataques vienen a nosotros en una variedad de disfraces, ocultándose como cosas buenas, como la tecnología moderna y maneras de hacer la vida más fácil, pero que están tal vez sin saberlo, socavando a la familia. Es por eso que el Papa Francisco convoco el Sínodo Extraordinario de la familia el año pasado, asistió al Encuentro Mundial de las Familias en Filadelfia el mes pasado, y por qué el Sínodo Ordinario de la familia se está llevando a cabo este mes en Roma. El Papa Francisco es una de las principales voces en la defensa y protección de la familia y es importante que unamos nuestras voces y nuestras oraciones a las suyas.

Si bien es cierto que hay muchos ataques de fuerzas externas que están socavando la importancia de la familia, también puede haber ataques desde dentro. A principios de esta primavera (13 de mayo de 2015, fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Fátima), El Papa Francisco habló sobre lo importante que es para cada uno de nosotros, los miembros de las familias, esposos y esposas, padres e hijos, conscientemente recordar decirse unos a otros tres frases todos los días: "¿Puedo?", "Gracias" y "lo siento." Y a esas tres frases, yo sólo añadiría una más: "¡Te amo!" ¿No nos parece a todos que es verdad que a veces tomamos aquellos con quienes vivimos y que están más cercanos a nosotros por sentado? Eso puede comenzar por olvidarse de expresar la cortesía común, como lo es preguntar "¿Puedo hacer esto?", o "Gracias por preparar tan deliciosa comida", o "Lo siento mucho por entristecerte o lastimar tus sentimientos." Y nunca debemos dejar pasar un día sin decirle a las personas más cercanas a nosotros: "¡Te quiero!"

Dios mismo es una familia de personas: el amor eterno del Padre por el Hijo, que da a luz a través de ese amor a su Espíritu Santo — tres Divinas Personas, un solo Dios — un misterio básico y esencial de nuestra fe. Pero en algunos otros aspectos, nuestra familia es también un tipo de misterio divino de amor: maridos y esposas amándose unos a otros, y a

Seminarian Spotlight



Wally Ferrara,
St. Thomas More Parish, Kalamazoo
Hackett Catholic Prep graduate
St. Joseph College Seminary, Chicago

Q – When did you first feel "the call"?
A – When I was 16 years old.

Q – What is a typical day like at the seminary?
A – Busy! I wake up at 6:20 a.m. for 7 a.m. Morning Prayer and Mass. After that classes range from 9:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We have Vespers at 5 p.m. with a half hour of silent meditation. After that we have dinner and then formation. Formation is where the priests teach you something about the priesthood: the spiritual life, how to deal with personal problem, how to relate with others, etc.

Q – What would surprise people the most about being a seminarian?
A – We are normal people. I think some people forget that sometimes. I am human and am weak, but I strive to be the best I can for God's people.

Q – What is your favorite place on campus at the seminary?
A – St. Joseph College Seminary is located on the campus of Loyola University in Chicago. My favorite place to go is on the 4th floor of Mundelein Tower. There is a large green house that has a great view of campus. The Chapel and library are right there.

Q – What most draws you to become a priest?
A – The Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession came to play at a critical point in my life and I want to help bring God's love, mercy, and forgiveness by Him acting through me for His people.

Q – What would be your best advice to a young man who thinks he may have a calling to the priesthood?
A – Don't take yourself too seriously. Remember that you are human and that means failing. Realize your smallness and have trust and confidence in God's will for your life. Let His will be done and don't force yours.

Q – Who is your favorite saint?
A – St. Pope John Paul II. I really admire how everyone loved him. I would also say (saint on the way) Mother Theresa for her service to the poor.

Q – Who has been the most influential priest in your life?
A – Father John Kilgallen S.J. He is an elderly priest at Loyola who has seen it all. He was in Vienna during World War II and he was in Jerusalem for the Six-Day War.

Q – How do you build your relationship with Jesus and His Church?
A – By loving Him by doing His will. To know that all things, even the challenges, are for a reason. He will never put me through anything out of vain. Also, I build my relationship through a commitment to prayer and receiving Him in the Sacraments.

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The Bishop's Perspective

Continued from page 3

other. We are a people of faith focused on family: God our Father, Jesus our Brother and Savior, Mary our Mother and our Mother the Church, with all of us as sisters and brothers in Christ in the family of humankind, united with the saints as our family in Heaven, who are cheering for us and interceding for us.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, we must reinforce our determination to renew our own commitment to value, appreciate, protect and strengthen our own individual families, our "Domestic Churches." It is in our families where we first come to know God; it is in our families where we are taught to value God's ways and live according to God's Word; it is in our families where we first live out the mandate of the Gospel — to love God and neighbor as we love ourselves; and it is in our families; where we learn to live according to the Golden Rule about which Pope Francis spoke so eloquently to the Joint session of Congress.

As Pope Francis reminded us at the Festival of Families, "Do you know what [God] loves most? To knock on the door of families and find families who love each other, who bring up their children to grow, and help them move forward."

It is through our families that we learn how to live in the larger family of humanity as Jesus has called us, and shown us how, to live. And it is in our families where we find the strength, the grace, and the love to stay connected, to remain with Jesus, as the branches to the Vine.

May all families throughout our diocese and everywhere continue to be blessed now and for all generations to come.

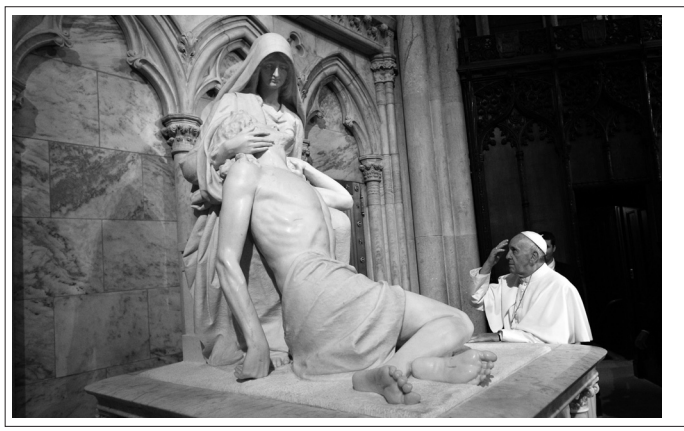
través de su amor, dando a luz a los niños para continuar la raza humana y continuar sirviendo a las necesidades de la sociedad y el mundo y destinados a la vida eterna con Dios en el Cielo. Y esa es la forma en que nuestro Dios nos ha hecho como seres humanos, a su imagen y semejanza, para vivir como una gran familia, en medio de nuestras propias familias individuales. Somos hijos e hijas de Dios; somos hermanos y hermanas unos de otros. Somos un pueblo de fe centrado en la familia: Dios, nuestro Padre, Jesús, nuestro Hermano y Salvador, María nuestra Madre y nuestra Madre la Iglesia, con todos nosotros como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo en la familia de la humanidad, unidos a los santos como nuestra familia en el Cielo, que están de nuestro lado e intercediendo por nosotros.

Mis queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo, debemos reforzar nuestra determinación de renovar nuestro propio compromiso de valorar, apreciar, proteger y fortalecer a nuestras propias familias individuales, nuestras "Iglesias domésticas" Es en nuestras familias, donde por primera vez conocemos a Dios; es en nuestras familias en las que se nos enseña a valorar los caminos de Dios y vivir según la Palabra de Dios; es en nuestras familias donde por primera vez vivimos el mandato del Evangelio — amar a Dios y al prójimo como a nosotros mismos — y es en nuestras familias donde aprendemos a vivir de acuerdo a la regla de oro de la cual el Papa Francisco habló tan elocuentemente a la sesión conjunta del Congreso.

Como el Papa Francisco nos recordó en el Festival de las Familias, "¿Saben lo que [Dios] más ama? Llamar a la puerta de las familias y encontrar familias que se aman, que traen a sus hijos para crecer y ayudarlos a seguir adelante".

Es a través de nuestras familias que aprendemos cómo vivir en la gran familia de la humanidad como Jesús nos ha llamado y nos ha mostrado como vivir. Y es en nuestras familias donde encontramos la fortaleza, la gracia y el amor para permanecer conectado, para permanecer con Jesús, como el sarmiento a la vid.

Que todas las familias a lo largo de nuestra diócesis y en todas partes continúen siendo bendecidas ahora y por todas las generaciones por venir.



Pope Francis makes the Sign of the Cross as he visits a sculpture of Mary and the crucified Jesus before celebrating vespers with priests, men and women religious in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Sept. 24.
(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

San Agustin Institute begins second year

The second group of the three-year formation program of the San Agustin, the Hispanic pastoral leadership formation program began Sept. 19.

"The first year was excellent," said Veronica Rodriguez, Associate Director of Hispanic/Latino Youth, Young Adults and Domestic Church. "We had great motivation from the pastors and the people. The number of students increased from 80 to 170."

This second year will continue the theological and pastoral formation, as well as begin to develop a pastoral project within each student's parish.

The St. Augustine Institute allows leaders from around the diocese to develop a deeper formation, instructed by professors who are experts in each topic they teach, preparing them to respond to the needs of their parish communities.

"There is definitely a sign of growth through the first year," said Rodriguez. "The students have shown growth in team collaboration, organization and participation within the Institute, their own parishes and their own lives."

ISAK
Instituto San Agustin Kalamazoo
Formando Líderes Hispanos en la Diócesis de Kalamazoo

Expert to present workshop on healing from porn addiction

Dr. Peter Kleponis, a Catholic therapist and expert in pornography addiction and recovery, will present a workshop in the Diocese of Kalamazoo in December that is open to everyone. Dr. Kleponis is the founder of *Integrity Restored*, a resource to help men, and their wives and families, to understand and break free from the bonds of pornography.

The mission of Integrity Restored is "to help restore the integrity of individuals, spouses and families that who have been affected by pornography and pornography addiction." Their programs educate and encourage, while offering the resources necessary to overcome pornography addiction, repair relationships harmed by this addiction and help parents prevent and respond to access to pornography with their children. Dr. Klepoins is a licensed clinical therapist and assistant director of comprehensive counseling services in Conshohocken, Pa., with more than 18 years of professional experience. He has been a guest on ETWN programs including Women of Grace, Franciscan University Presents and Crossing the Goal. He recently published the book, *Integrity Restored: Helping Catholic Families Win the Battle Against Pornography with Emmaus Road Publishing*.

Saturday, Dec. 12th, Dr. Kleponis will present a workshop open to all from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The workshop will be held at St. John Bosco Parish Hall, 23830 Front Ave., Mattawan.

Cost is $15 per person; $25 for married couples by Nov. 20th. From Nov. 20th – Dec. 4th the cost is $20 per person; $30 for married couples. Lunch is included. No registrations will be accepted after Dec. 4th.

For information contact Jane Bodway at 269-903-0147 or jbodway@diokzoo.org

Monthly Energizer series kicks-off

Saturday, Oct. 17 marks the start of another great series of Monthly Energizers. Featuring music from Kleen SL8, talks for adults and youth, craft learning for kids, food and adoration, there is truly something for everyone.

"With the recent conclusion of the World Meeting of Families and the tremendous impact of Pope Francis' visit, the question becomes how can I keep this Spirit-filled experience alive with my family? The Diocesan Energizer offers a great opportunity for the entire family to joyfully embrace the faith through prayer, fellowship, presentations, and praise and worship music," says Tim McNamara, Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. "This monthly event affords the opportunity to pray and worship together as a family while deepening your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. It is a great chance to keep the energy of the Pope's visit and to further allow the roots of the faith to grow within one's heart."

Energizers are held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Topics and dates are as follows:

Oct. 17 –	**Redemptive Suffering**
Nov. 21 –	**Year of Mercy**
Jan. 16 –	**Spiritual Works of Mercy**
Feb. 20 –	**Corporal Works of Mercy**
March 12 –	**Divine Mercy**
April 16 –	**Indulgences**

Church celebrates Respect Life Month during October

Sunday, October 4th, marked the beginning of Respect Life Month in Catholic churches around the country. During this month, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is raising awareness about human life issues and introducing new informational materials for parishes about those issues. The 2015-2016 materials discuss a number of topics, including assisted suicide, end-of-life care, sterilization, abortion, poor prenatal diagnosis, and disabilities. This year's theme for Respect Life Month is Every Life is a Gift. Learn more at www.diokzoo.org and www.usccb.org.

USCCB Releases 'USA Catholic Church' Mobile App

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has introduced its first mobile app, USA Catholic Church. This is a screen grab from the app.

WASHINGTON—Leadership of the Catholic Church in the United States has introduced its first mobile app: USA Catholic Church. Designed to draw Catholics closer to their faith by providing access to Church information on all screens and devices, this is the only app that brings together information from all Catholic sources: parishes, dioceses, the U.S. bishops and even the Vatican.

App content is available in both English and Spanish and lets users:

- Follow Pope Francis with the latest news and communications, including videos and photos.
- Access unique mobile features: view daily readings, make mobile donations, receive news alerts, get Vatican and Catholic News Service updates, and have the ability to share via social media.

This month, new parish and diocese functionality will be released, allowing users to stay in contact with local dioceses and parishes through individual pages with Mass and confession times, homilies, events, blog posts, videos and bulletins, and locate local parishes at home or when traveling with a "Church Finder" tool that works by location, city, state or ZIP code.

The USA Catholic Church app is free to download at Google Play and Apple iTunes in English and Spanish. To download, visit www.USACatholic.church from a smartphone or tablet device.

The Other Six Days | By Jane Knuth

Thirty-Somethings Trying to Be Catholic

Where are the 30-somethings hanging out in the Catholic Church? * When I began looking for them, it wasn't easy. Then someone pointed me to a play-date on a weekday morning at a local parish. Sure enough, there they were. And following is what they have to tell us about what it's like to try to be Catholic during the other six days of the week.

Her 15 month-old is crying so Rachel bounces him on her hip while she talks. "*Trying to be Catholic* about sums it up. We try, but we need grace. I have my gifts that God has given me, but I also have my limitations, and he gave me those, too!

Nicky nods and says, "The main thing is the continual support we offer each other. When moms gather we find out whose baby came early, who has shingles or hepatitis. But we try not to be judgmental; instead we step forward and rally around the person who is struggling. We also have the saints to talk with. There's a St. Theresa quote on my refrigerator and it's relevant to my situation. We Catholic moms get angry and yell just like any mom, but we pray as a family, too."

When I leave the nursery I run into a friend who is 30-something but single with no children, which changes the perspective. "I take care of my mom and some of my neighbors," says Kate. "I can't give money but I can give prayer. I see my faith as a gateway to God for the prayers for those who need them. I see Jesus and I see the prophets inside me. I am very humbled by the things I do and by the things I need."

Where are the 30-somethings? Even if we don't always see them in church, they are changing the diapers, comforting the sick, and sticking the saints on the refrigerator door. They are praying with their kids and praying for their neighbors. They are trying to be Catholic.

*http://www.pewforum.org/2010/02/17/religion-among-the-millennials/ Results of Pew Research Center on people born between 1981-1999 (millennials), approx. 41% of Catholic millennials attend church weekly.

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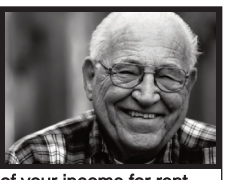

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Entrance is free and open to the public.
The church is located at
1150 W. Centre Street, Portage, Michigan.

Bishop Bradley greets Pope Francis at Basilica in Washington, D.C., celebrates canonization of St. Junipero Serro with fellow bishops

Following is an excerpt from Bishop Bradley's blog on the papal visit.

"At the celebration of Midday Prayer, Pope Francis spoke to the 300 plus bishops gathered together with him as a 'brother bishop' and as a loving father. At one point he said to us 'I speak to you as Bishop of Rome — called by God in old age to watch over the unity of the Church and to encourage in charity the growth in faith and love in Christ.'

Sister Marie passes through security before Pope Francis celebrates Mass and the canonization of Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 23 in Washington.
(CNS photo/Brian Snyder, Reuters)

"Pope Francis is very mindful of his chronological age, but he is age-less when it comes to speaking with youthful enthusiasm about the mission of the Church and our important role as bishops — to lovingly shepherd our people, to be in constant dialogue with all people no matter what disagreements they may have so that we can always see them as persons and not be distracted by their positions that may differ from ours. And he urged us to remain pastors who have an intense and rich life of prayer — prayer in union with the person of Christ.

"I had the great privilege of being able to be one of a small delegation of bishops to greet the Holy Father personally, and I took that occasion to pass on to him the good wishes and requests for prayers that many of you sent to me through our diocesan website as well as the promise of prayers on behalf of all the faithful and clergy of our Diocesan Church for him.

"The canonization Mass was absolutely beautiful. In less than two hours, and in a Mass celebrated mostly in Spanish, Pope Francis declared that Father Junipero Serra is now a Saint of the Church, "decreeing that he is to be venerated as such by the whole Church." It was a relatively simple, but very moving, rite held at the very beginning of the Mass. The remainder of the Mass was a wonderful celebration with 25,000 people gathered together on the grounds of Catholic University. The day was perfect — sunshine, breeze, and very comfortable in the outdoor setting. Thanks be to God, all has gone very well for this first full dayof the Pope's visit. "

Pope Francis greets guests including California Indians following Mass and the canonization of St. Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 23.
(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Visit www.catholickalamazoo.blogspot.com for more reflections from Bishop Bradley and diocesan staff.

Local students make pilgrimage to see Pope Francis
CSGK families impressed by profound sense of peace surrounding papal visit

By **Kathy Doud**

Everywhere Pope Francis traveled on his first visit to the United States, he encouraged his listeners to perform "little gestures" of love. And indeed, it was those signs of love that surprised and delighted a handful of students, parents and staff members from the Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo, who climbed aboard tour buses or piled into the family car to witness the pope's visit first-hand.

"It felt like a family gathering rather than a world event," said Dr. Kevin Kavanaugh, an instructor and clinician in Western Michigan University's Homer Stryker School of Medicine. He made the 12-hour car trip to Washington, D.C. with his wife, Veronica, and daughter, Grace, a second grader at St. Monica Catholic School. "The overall tone was positive and calm. No one was picketing or screaming for their own agenda. Security was tight but everyone seemed upbeat, happy and calm."

There was a sense of looking out for each other. Kate Willard, the Advancement Director for CSGK, said those who couldn't see were still able to know what was going on. "Nobody was pushing to be in front. There was a very tall man beside us who was giving updates to those who didn't have such a clear view," she said. "He'd shout: 'Now there's a group of motorcycles… now, there are three police cars… and there he is!'"

Andrew Bohr traveled to Philadelphia with his son, Alex, a senior at Hackett Catholic Prep. They found a front-row spot along the parade fence and stuck to it. "It was worth camping out for hours for a front-row view of the Pope as he went by," said Alex.

Lisa Smith will never forget standing in a crowd of millions, holding hands and praying the "Our Father" during the Pope's final Mass for families. "His message of love and tenderness in the family was truly inspiring," she said.

Willard concurred, saying: "I spent more than 12 hours on a bus to stand outdoors, shoulder-to-shoulder with strangers, looking at a screen to see a liturgy I could easily have streamed on my laptop from the comfort of my own couch. But there was an incredible sense of community on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. There was a shared joy… to be near Pope Francis, to hear him speak, to catch a glimpse of him."

A spillover crowd watches the Pope's Mass from a Jumbotron screen located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.

Whether they saw him in D.C., NYC or Philly, all seemed to agree, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Kalamazoo Meeting of Families

Saturday, Sept. 26, families from all over the diocese gathered at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage to celebrate in solidarity with the World Meeting of Families. Bishop Bradley celebrated Mass, followed by a video of Pope Francis' address, music of praise and worship, and the rosary.

Local pilgrims reflect on impact of pope's presence in America

I was in awe the entire time; we are so blessed to have a faith that is truly universal. To see our Holy Father so close and to see his smile radiant throughout the crowd was such a blessing. I was so touched by the kindness of all around, from sharing food, stories and prayers. Before Mass at one time we must of have had a hundred people praying the rosary together truly a touching moment for me. The kindness from a million people tugged at my heart the entire weekend; knowing that a million plus people can come together in faith, fellowship, and prayer is in itself a blessing from above. I am so blessed to have had this experience one I will never forget. I am still on a Holy Spirit high one that I pray stays that way for a very long time to come.
(Joy Livingston)

Pope Francis arrives on the popemobile for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia Sept. 27.
Photo by Catholic News Service

Photography by Joy Livingston

Seeing the Pope is something I have always wanted to do since I was a young girl growing up in a devout Catholic home. I was really hoping for one huge A-ha moment. Some kind of enlightenment, one that would have the answer to all of my questions and struggles. Instead I had many A-ha moments. As one reporter told us after yesterday's Mass "Que bonito hasta donde llega la mano de Dios" roughly translated to "how beautiful it is to see where the hand of God reaches." I witnessed so many people who love and live their faith, whether Catholic or not. The bottom line is we're all here on this planet together! We must love, respect and treat others with kindness. We must help these who need our help and not expect anything in return.
(Maria Hawk)

Pope Francis talks with Sister Marie Mathilde, 102, during his unannounced visit to the Little Sisters of the Poor residence in Washington, D.C. Sept. 23. Photo by Catholic News Service

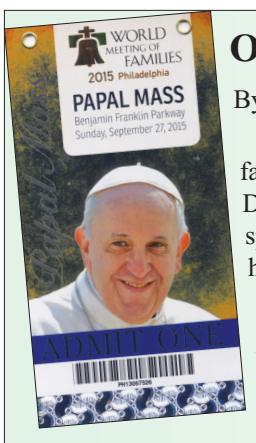
A spillover crowd watches the Pope's Mass from a Jumbotron screen located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.
Photo by Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo

Every moment of this trip was absolutely amazing. But, the moment that moved me the most was when I was watching the Mass from a screen, when Pope Francis bowed his head to pray, everyone in the block did as well, and we were all silent. A sense of unity was created through prayer…the moment gives me goose bumps whenever I think of it. **(Nella Eshbaugh)**

My favorite part of the whole trip would have to be the Papal Mass. We got great seats and I got in a tree to see the Pope come in so my new nickname is Zacheries.
(Ethan Rose)

Pope Francis arrives to give a talk at St. Patrick in the City Church in Washington, D.C. Sept. 24.
Photo by Catholic News Service

Peace and love permeated the air. The peace and grace of God was palpable. Like being at a concert the energy, message and tender love our the Holy Father was felt throughout Philadelphia. It was the closest we have ever been to heaven here on earth. **(Jim & Linda Warren)**



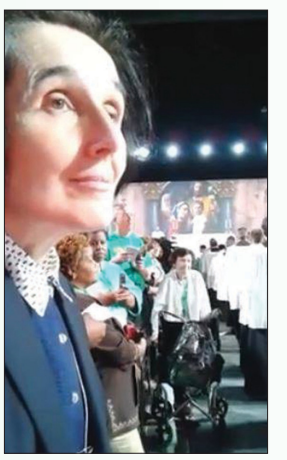
On God's Time – a reflection on the World Meeting of Families

By **Socorro Truchan, Associate Director, Domestic Church**

"During the experience I felt like I was on God's time and enveloped in this experience of being one family with the thousands of people there. One of my first points of grace was a chance encounter with Dr. Emanuela Molla, daughter of St. Gianna [see sidebar]. I immediately gave her a hug and we began speaking as if we were old friends. My connection with her began years ago when I corresponded with her and she sent me a relic of her mother.

"Throughout the week there were so many stories of grace and hope. I met with a group who had traveled all the way from the Pope's home country of Argentina to participate in the World Meeting of the Families. And at each of my pilgrimage stops I lit a candle for all the intentions of the people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo."

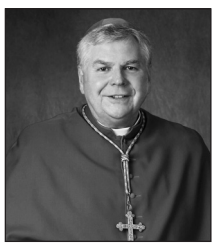
St. Gianna Beretta Molla (Oct. 4, 1922-April 28, 1962), an Italian pediatrician, is one of the Church's lay saints. When suffering from a life-threatening disease while pregnant, she rejected the possibility of having an abortion to save her own life and gave her own to save that of her fourth child, Gianna Emanuela. Her heroic example, both in life and death, led her to become a patron saint of the unborn, and she now has a growing devoted following worldwide — reports of miracles and graces granted through her intercession continue to this day. Molla was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004.



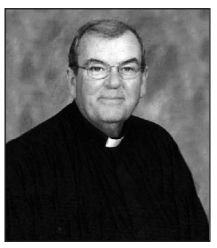
Dr. Emanuela Molla (pictured above) attended the World Meeting of Families. Emanuela was the fourth child of St. Gianna Molla (pictured right)

St. Gianna Beretta Molla is pictured on a family outing with daughter Laura in an undated photo. The Italian doctor and mother, who sacrificed her own life for the life of her child, was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004. (CNS photo)

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY — October 18



The Most Reverend
Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo



Very Rev. Larry Farrell
Diocesan Director of
The Ponifical Society

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year we remember in a special way our Baptismal call to mission as we celebrate World Mission Sunday, this year on October 18. On this Sunday, we will gather at the Eucharist, as will Catholics throughout the world, in a spirit of love for Evangelization so that, through our prayers and concrete acts of solidarity, the gift of faith may be shared with all. This year's celebration is further enriched as we mark the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church (Ad Gentes) which proclaims, "The pilgrim Church on earth is missionary by its very nature," reminding us that all of us are called to be on mission.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis writes, "Mission is part of the 'grammar' of faith, something essential for those who listen to the voice of the Spirit who whispers 'Come' and 'Go forth.' Those who follow Christ cannot fail to be missionaries…"

On World Mission Sunday, as our (arch)diocesan family joins our brothers and sisters around the world, responding to the voice of the Spirit, we connect with our world on mission: …with Africa, where six million children receive an education in some 16,000 Church-run elementary schools … with Asia, where those who are sick are provided with loving care at 5,000 Catholic hospitals and small clinics …with the Americas, where catechists travel to remote areas to bring the Good News of the God's great love to families …with Oceania, where young men are supported in their studies for the priesthood, to bring the Lord's healing hope and peace to those in need …with Europe, where new churches are being built to welcome faith communities, renewed after years of persecution.

Your financial help on World Mission Sunday, offered in the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, supports such efforts in 1,150 young mission dioceses in our world, reaching the poorest communities with a message of hope and healing, mercy and peace. Pope Francis emphasizes that "mission is a passion for Jesus and at the same time a passion for his people." Let us have that same passion this World Mission Sunday, as we share the joy of the Gospel and help the poor by our fervent prayer and through generous hearts!

Faithfully yours in the Lord,

+Paul J. Bradley

The Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

This year, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 18.

On this Sunday, the Catholics of the world, gathered at the Eucharist, will celebrate our vocation as missionaries, through prayer and participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The generous offerings received on World Mission Sunday provide financial support for the 1,150 young mission dioceses and communities who await the "Good News" of Jesus as their saving hope.

Parishioners are asked to keep the worldwide mission of Jesus in your prayers during October, Mission Month, and to give as generously as possible in the special collection in your parish on World Mission Sunday.

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

For more on staying "in touch" with the change-makers of the Mission Church every day, in real time, visit Missio.org and download the Missio app.

Pope appoints 18 couples to attend Synod of Bishops on family

By **Carol Glatz,** Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 360 participants, including 18 married couples from around the world, were expected to attend October's Synod of Bishops on the family.

In addition to the 166 synod members elected by their national bishops' conferences, 22 heads of Eastern Catholic churches, 25 heads of Vatican congregations and councils and 10 heads of men's religious orders, the pope appointed an additional 45 synod fathers to take part in the Oct. 4-25 gathering.

The ordinary synod will include many more people than last year's extraordinary synod, which met over the course of 15 days. The ordinary synod will bring together nine additional leaders of Eastern Catholic churches and six more "fraternal delegates" from the Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant communities. The pope also named 45 voting members of the synod — up from 26 last year — and he appointed 51 observers and 23 experts, including a total of 18 married couples. At the extraordinary synod, there were 38 observers and 16 experts, which included a total of 14 couples.

Almost half of the 45 papally appointed voting members are from Europe with another 15 from the Americas, three from Africa, two from Oceania and one from Asia. At the extraordinary synod, almost all appointees were from Europe, and none of the papal appointees was from North America or other English-speaking countries.

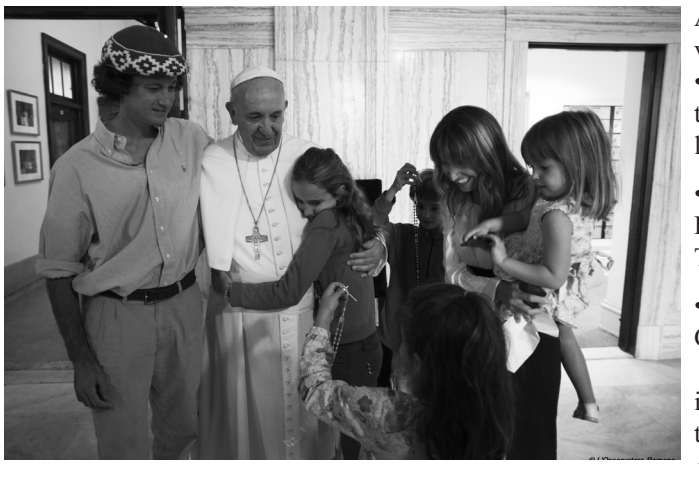
Pope Francis ensured that all the members of the synod's general council would be present at the October meeting by appointing U.S. Cardinals Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Timothy M. Dolan of New York as voting members.

In addition, he named U.S. Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; U.S. Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio; Canadian Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix of Quebec; and New Zealand Cardinal John A. Dew of Wellington as members.

Among 51 observers and 23 experts appointed by the pope, the majority are laymen and laywomen, including 18 married couples. The 42 men and 32 women, who will not have voting rights, represent a more geographically diverse mix with fairly equal representation for Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East, and a slightly higher number from Europe.

Among those elected to attend by the [United States Council of Cathoilc Bishops]:

• U.S. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, conference president; Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, host of the World Meeting of Families in September; and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles.



Pope Francis meets Walker family of Buenos Aires, Argentina, in Philadelphia: Pope Francis meets the Walker family of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sept. 27 in Philadelphia. Catire, Noel and their four children — Cala, 12, Dimas, 8, Mia, 5, and Carmin, 3 — traveled 13,000 miles to be with Pope Francis during the World Meeting of Families.

(CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Among the nonvoting members [from the United States] invited to attend are:

• U.S. Sister Maureen Kelleher, a member of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary and an attorney who provides legal assistance and attention to immigrants in Florida.

• U.S. couple Catherine Witczak and Anthony Witczak of Philadelphia, former leaders of the International Ecclesial Team of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

• John Grabowski, professor of moral theology at The Catholic University of America, Washington.

The ordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops is focusing on "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World." It will draw up pastoral guidelines responding to previous discussions looking at the challenges facing today's families. It is expected the pope will then write a postsynodal apostolic exhortation that takes up the themes of the synod and develops them further.

Class of 1965 helps Hackett Catholic Prep Celebrate 50th Anniversary

By **Katherine Doud**

They sat in desks so new they could smell the freshly planed wood.

They ate lunch in a spacious cafeteria, rather than brown-bagging it in a crowded classroom. There was no graffiti on the walls. No lockers that jammed.

They were the class of 1965 — the first class to spend an entire academic year at the sprawling, new Monsignor John R. Hackett High School, which opened its doors in September of 1964 and was formally dedicated a month later.

"There was palpable excitement...when Hackett opened for our senior year of high school. New building. New teachers," says B. Joseph White, a member of the class of 1965 who will be attending his 50th class reunion Friday through Sunday, Sept. 18-20 in Kalamazoo. The reunion is part of an ongoing 50th anniversary celebration for what is now Hackett Catholic Prep, a co-educational Catholic high school located at 1000 W. Kilgore Rd.

The idea for Hackett began when its predecessor — St. Augustine High School — had to turn away 200 students due to lack of space in 1963. Although St. Augustine was a co-ed high school, it was decided that Hackett would be for young men only and St. A's would be renamed Monsignor O'Brien High School and its student population would be young women.

"We were not excited about the prospect of a guys-only school," says White. "But we became very impressed by the Marianist Brothers who came to teach us. They were smart and they were tough...They raised the standards I held for myself and eased the way toward the academic challenges college presented a year later. I've always been grateful for that."

White is just one of many 1965 graduates who went on to put their Hackett education to good use. White is currently the President Emeritus and the James F. Towey Professor of Business and Leadership at the University of Illinois. His classmates included Albert Schiavone, now deceased, who owned and operated the well-known Schiavone Photo Studio on West Michigan Avenue in Kalamazoo; and Jack Shafer, who joined the United States Air Force, and spent 27 years as a pilot flying A-10's, a brand of fighter aircraft, on missions that included the first "Desert Storm" war in Saudi Arabia in 1990.

Shafer, who will be traveling to the reunion from his home in Tucson, says unequivocally: "The bedrock and foundation of my success in life was my Catholic education." Shafer, like his classmates in 1965, spent three years studying with the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Augustine High School, before coming under the tutelage of the Marianist Brothers at Hackett.

"My Catholic education instilled in me discipline and good study habits," says Shafer. "I treasure my Catholic education. I credit the nuns and brothers for...teaching me how to study hard...so I could get through college, get into the air force...and learn to fly (A-10's) and be good at it."

The 1965 class reunion will bring together both the young men who graduated from Hackett, that year, and the young women who graduated from O'Brien.

"We are BOTH the class of 1965," says Shafer. Even after the young men and women were split "we continued to ask the young ladies to dances and the prom. Even though we had different graduation celebrations, we got together afterwards and celebrated at Lake Michigan."

Kathie Haas Dekker, who graduated from O'Brien High School in 1965, says "we approached our senior year with a resolve that we would not lose the camaraderie and oneness that our class enjoyed."

She, too, remembers her first tour of Hackett back in 1964. "My first impression was one of awe. There was so much room. They had a cafeteria and a beautiful auditorium. It was so new and nothing like the old St. Augustine High School. The building seemed endless! I admit, I was a little jealous."

The female students weren't left out for long. In 1971, rising costs forced O'Brien High School to close, and the young women joined the men to create the co-ed high school that still exists today. Dekker says the 50th reunion will draw 71 classmates from across the United States. Some of the social events will take place at The Four Points by Sheraton in Kalamazoo. But the class of 1965 has also made sure they'll be back on the Hackett campus, once again, with an informal gathering at Hackett on Friday, Sept. 18 and Mass in the Hackett chapel on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Hackett Catholic Prep will also celebrate its 50th year by installing a Michigan Milestone Award Plaque later this fall. The plaque will be issued by the Historical Society of Michigan in recognition of the school's 50 years of service to the community.

The school will host an Open House for prospective students from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5th. The night will include school tours given by National Honor Society students; booths in the gym where prospective students can explore what Hackett has to offer; a lottery drawing for a $1000 tuition voucher for one incoming freshman; and a short presentation by new principal Brian Kosmerick, which will be preceded by a performance of the "Hackett Fight Song" by the HCP choir and band. For more information, contact the HCP main office at 269-381-2646.

B. Joseph White (Hackett class of 1965) enjoys his senior prom with Mary Decker (O'Brien class of 1965). The couple later married and will be attending their 50th class reunion in Kalamazoo this weekend.

Karen Hammeran (left) and Kathie Haas Dekker were business managers of the O'Brien High School yearbook. They'll be returning to Kalamazoo to celebrate their 50th class reunion this weekend.

Catholic Charities' Prayer Place celebrates first anniversary

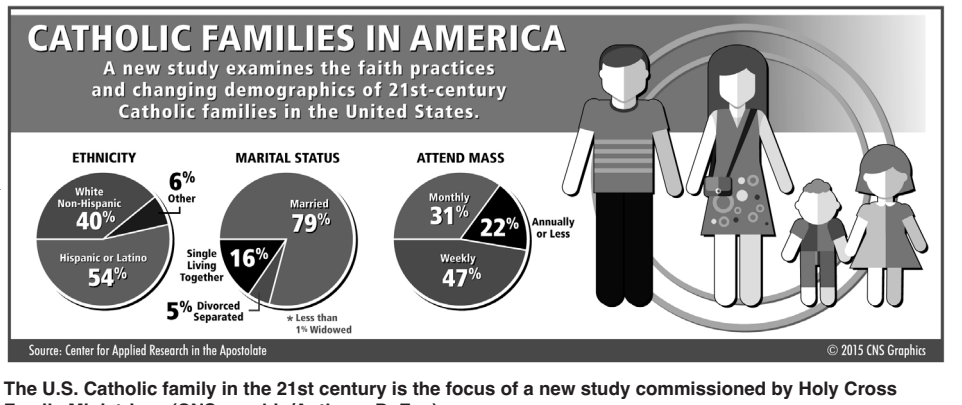
Since its doors first opened on Oct. 13, 2014, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Kalamazoo's Prayer Place has received hundreds of prayer requests from clients, staff, volunteers and friends.

Located within the agency's Caring Network, 1441 S. Westnedge Ave. in Kalamazoo, Prayer Place is open for anyone to pray between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. each weekday. Groups gather to pray every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at Noon and every Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Prayer requests can be submitted on slips of paper. Many ask for safety, health, housing, strength to deal with the future or for members of their families. After praying for their specific needs, Prayer Place volunteers write words of support, hope, and encouragement on the requests. The slips of paper are then returned to those making the request, affirming that they have been prayed for and that they are not alone.

For more information on how to get involved with Prayer Place, contact Jeannine Boehm at 269-381-9800.

Join regular Prayer Place volunteers, (L-R) Tom Hajec, Laura Mitchell, Carol Raczkowski, Fran Denny and Sue Hajec. Prayer Place volunteers not pictured: Carmelie Miado, Barbara Strong, Dinah Howrigon, Jamie Wallace, Deacon Louis Zemlick, Jane Peterson and Mary Waurio.



The U.S. Catholic family in the 21st century is the focus of a new study commissioned by Holy Cross Family Ministries. (CNS graphic/Anthony DeFeo)

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3427 Gull Road, Kalamazoo 49048 TransformationsCenter.org
269-381-6290 x327
Discipleship & Freedom in a Season of Giving
A day of reflection with Fr. Richard Fragomeni
Saturday, November 21
9:30a.m. – 3:00p.m.
Discipleship need not be burdensome!
Fr. Fragomeni makes the path of discipleship feel like a privilege!
Set your Christian faith on fire!
Fr. Richard Fragomeni
2015 Keynote at National Pastoral Musicians Conference
Fr. Fragomeni is a funny, engaging speaker.
For those who need encouragement in their life of discipleship to those who need to be challenged to live what they believe,
Fr. Fragomeni brings words of support and vision.

Encuentro Diocesano Vocacional

Por las **Hermanas Misioneras Siervas del Divino Espíritu**

Hermanas de San Felipe, Fennville

"La vocación cristiana es sobre todo una llamada de amor que atrae,… descentra a la persona, inicia un «camino permanente, como un salir del yo cerrado en sí mismo hacia su liberación en la entrega de sí y, de este modo, hacia el reencuentro consigo mismo, más aún, hacia el descubrimiento de Dios. (Mensaje para la jornada mundial de las vocaciones 2015)

Con estas palabras, el Santo Padre nos invitaba a salir de sí mismos para ir al encuentro de nuestro hermano y dar razón a Dios de él. (Gn. 4,9); pero más que con palabras es con nuestro testimonio de vida que debemos atraerlos al encuentro con Jesús.

Atendiendo a la voz del Maestro que nos invita a rogar "al dueño dela Mies para que envíe obreros a su mies (Mt. 9, 38), los días 7, 8 y 9 de agosto se realizó en Sturgis un encuentro vocacional hispano, en el que participaron 19 jovencitas provenientes de diferentes parroquias de nuestra Diócesis, jóvenes con deseo de conocer otras opciones de vida que el mundo no les presenta.

Quién soy yo, cuál es mi misión y quién es Dios, fueron algunos interrogantes que más se trabajaron en este encuentro. Algunos momentos importantes que marcaron sus vidas está, la vigilia y momentos de oración, conversación sagrada y no podía faltar el deporte, que derribó barreras entre sí y unió lazos de amistad y fraternidad.

Mostrémosle a los jóvenes con nuestra vida que vale la pena seguir a Cristo y que sólo con Él encontraremos la verdadera felicidad, porque "separados de mí, no pueden hacer nada" (Jn. 15, 5)

Gracias a la Diócesis y a la organización Catholic Extension, por el apoyo incondicional para la realización de este evento, al igual que a la parroquia Holy Angels, por su desinteresada colaboración.

Nuestro Papa Francisco: Papa de Todos

Por la **Dra. Fanny Tabares**

En estos últimos días, la radio y la televisión han estados cargados de noticias y comentarios sobre las visitas del papa Francisco a Cuba y Estados Unidos muchos a nivel personal participando en los diferentes encuentros con el Santo Padre y otros a través de la televisión y la radio hemos tenido oportunidad de estar en contacto con el Santo Padre y sus enseñanzas con más frecuencia y atención.

Hemos visto a un Papa bondadoso, comprensivo y sobretodo sensible a las necesidades de los pobres, de los enfermos de los indocumentados, de los presos y de los ancianos.

Con la profundidad de sus discursos y homilías el Papa ha sido capaz de llegar a católicos y no católicos e incluso a los no creyentes o como decía alguien el Papa Francisco es el Papa de todos. En su despedida en el Congreso incluyó a los no creyentes diciendo: "Y les pido, por favor, a Ustedes, que recen por mí. Y, si entre ustedes hay algunos que no creen, o no pueden rezar, les pido, por favor, que me deseen cosas buenas". Pidió por la paz "Esa paz que nace del reconocimiento del otro, esa paz que surge en el corazón al mirar especialmente al más necesitado como a un hermano". Sensible a los sentimientos y realidad de los inmigrantes cuando visitó a la Escuela Nuestra Señora de los Angeles en New York dijo: "Aunque sé que no siempre es fácil tener que trasladarse y encontrar una nueva casa, encontrar nuevos vecinos, amigos; no es fácil, pero hay que empezar. Al principio puede ser algo cansador. Muchas veces aprender un nuevo idioma, adaptarse a una nueva cultura, un nuevo clima. Cuántas cosas tienen que aprender. No solo las tareas de la escuela, sino tantas cosas. Lo bueno es que también encontramos nuevos amigos. Y esto es muy importante, los nuevos amigos que encontramos. Encontramos personas que nos abren puertas y nos muestran su ternura, su amistad, su comprensión, y buscan ayudarnos para que no nos sintamos extraños, extranjeros".

En New York en el jardín Madison Square continuo hablando sobre los indocumentados extranjeros especialmente de los pobres: "A su vez, las grandes ciudades esconden el rostro de tantos que parecen no tener ciudadanía o ser ciudadanos de segunda categoría. En las grandes ciudades, bajo el ruido del tránsito, bajo 'el ritmo del cambio', quedan silenciados tantos rostros por no tener 'derecho' a ciudadanía, no tener derecho a ser parte de la ciudad –los extranjeros,

sus hijos (y no solo) que no logran la escolarización, los privados de seguro médico, los sin techo, los ancianos solos–, quedando al borde de nuestras calles, en nuestras veredas, en un anonimato ensordecedor. Y se convierten en parte de un paisaje urbano que lentamente se va naturalizando ante nuestros ojos y especialmente en nuestro corazón. Saber que Jesús sigue caminando en nuestras calles, mezclándose vitalmente con su pueblo, implicándose e implicando a las personas en una única historia de salvación, nos llena de esperanza…".

Fue increíble la manera tan profunda y maravillosa como tocó los diferentes temas políticos, económicos, sociales y religiosos que afectan al mundo y a la dignidad del ser humano. Digamos como decían los niños de una escuela que visitó: ¡Gracias Papa Francisco por ser nuestro Papa!

Calendario/*Calendar*

Octubre/ October

1-4 — Cursillo par Hombres
8-11 — Cursillo para Mujeres
10 (Sábado) — 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial, para parejas que se van a casar. También para parejas de matrimonio interesadas en reflexionar sobre su vida. Lugar: St. Joseph, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI. (Pre-Marriage Encounter in Spanish for those who will be getting married and for married couples who would like to have a day of reflection)
Oct. 22-Nov. 24 — Sesiones Recuperación de un Trauma en español (10 sesiones). (Trauma Recovery Sessions in Spanish. 10 sessions).
24 (Sábado) 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín – Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación 2014-2017. Tema: "Religiosidad Popular y Mariología" por el P. Stephen Dudek. (St. Augustine Institute – Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation 2014-2017, Topic: "Popular Religion and Mariology" by Fr. Stephen Dudek).
29 (Jueves) — 6:30 – 9 p.m. Taller de Liturgia, Ministros de Comunión y Lectores. Parroquia de Holy Angels, Sturgis. (Liturgy Workshop, Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors)
31 (Sábado) — 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, Centro Pastoral Diocesano (Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center), Kalamazoo

Noviembre/November

Oct. 22-Nov. 24 — Sesiones Recuperación de un Trauma en español (10 sesiones). (Trauma Recovery Sessions in Spanish. 10 sessions).
1 (Domingo) — Día de Todos los Santos (All Saints Day)
2 (Lunes)Día de los Difuntos (Day of the Dead)
6 (Viernes) — 6:30 – 9 p.m. Taller de Liturgia, Ministros de Comunión y Lectores. Parroquia de St. Mary, Niles. (Liturgy Workshop, Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors)
21 (Sábado) — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín – Programa de Formación Pastoral y de Liderazgo, Segundo Año de Formación 2014-2017. Tema: Profetas por el Padre Fred Thelen. (St. Augustine Institute – Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Formation Program, Second Year of Formation 2014-2017, Topic: Prophets by Fr. Fred Thelen).

Diciembre/December

5 (Sábado) — 10 a.m.-12m. Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, Centro Pastoral Diocesano (Hispanic Ministry Diocesan Pastoral Committee meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center), Kalamazoo.
11 (Jueves) — 7 p.m. Misa Bilingüe, Celebración de Nuestra Sra. De Guadalupe, Catedral de San Agustín, Kalamazoo, MI, Preside el Señor Obispo Paul J. Bradley (Bilingual Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo, MI. Presiding Bishop Paul J. Bradley).
16 (Miércoles) Comienzan las Posadas y Novenas Navideñas en las Parroquias. (Beginning of the Posadas and Christmas Novenas in the Parishes.)

Fortaleciendo las Familias en la Fe (Reflexión #16)

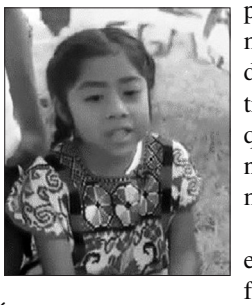
Por **Verónica Rodríguez**

Encuentro Mundial de las Familias:

El pasado 22 al 25 de septiembre fue el Encuentro Mundial de las familias en Filadelfia. El lema del encuentro fue "El Amor es Nuestra Misión: La Familia Plenamente Viva." La culminación del Encuentro fue la Santa Misa presidida el sábado 27 de septiembre por el Santo Padre Francisco; durante su homilía, el Santo Padre recordó a todas las familias que la "santidad está vinculada a los pequeños gestos de amor" y que la fe crece "cuando es vivida y moldeado por el amor". Esos pequeños gestos de amor tales como la bendición antes de ir a dormir o un abrazo cuando se regresa de un día de trabajo, "gestos del hogar". El Papa Francisco también nos recuerda que por eso es que nuestros hogares son las verdaderas iglesias domesticas. El hogar es el "lugar correcto para que la fe se convierta en vida, y para que la vida se convierta en fe". El Santo Padre concluyó diciendo, "Todo el que quiera traer a este mundo una familia que enseñe a los niños a alegrarse por cada acción que tenga como propósito vencer al mal – una familia que muestra que el Espíritu está vivo y actuante – encontrará nuestra gratitud y nuestro estima, no importando el pueblo, la región o la religión a la que pertenezca". Que en nuestros hogares reflejemos el amor para que sean vínculos para la santidad.

Carta de la niña Sofía Cruz al Santo Padre Francisco

Sofía Cruz es una niña, de tan solo cinco años de California y de padres mexicanos quien tuvo la suerte de saludar al Papa Francisco y entregarle personalmente una carta durante su visita a Washington. En la carta le pide al Santo Padre que interceda por los indocumentados como sus padres. "Estamos oprimidos por la violencia, por el racismo, por la mala gestión del Gobierno. Le pedimos al Papa que interceda no sólo por los inmigrantes mexicanos, sino también por el resto de latinoamericanos, por los europeos, por todos", dijo Sofía Cruz ante varios medios de comunicación como Telemundo y Univisión. Esta es la carta que Sofía entrego al Papa junto con una camiseta de su grupo que viajo desde California buscando una reforma migratoria: "Septiembre 15, 2015.



Su Santidad Papa Francisco:
Me llamo Sophie Cruz, tengo 5 años, soy ciudadana americana de raíces Mexicana, vivo en los Angeles California, en el corazón de la Agricultura.

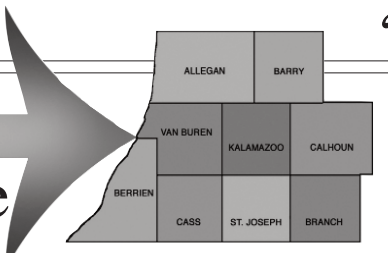
Quiero contarte que mi corazón esta triste por el odio y la discriminación hacia los inmigrantes de este país, te pido que hables con el Presidente, Barack Obama. Y con los congresistas, para que APRUEBEN LA REFORMA MIGRATORIA, para los inmigrantes, ellos son buenas personas, saben trabajar en los campos, cultivando naranjas, sandias, cebollas y muchos vegetales. Por lo tanto merecen salir de la oscuridad y que sean reconocidos por el trabajo tan duro que hacen como mi papá, que casi no lo veo. Que paren las deportaciones de nuestros papás, porque los necesitamos para crecer sanos y felices.

Dile también que no siga recortando el presupuesto para la educación en mi california, es injusto que corten nuestras alas y maten nuestros sueños. Nosotros los niños somos la esperanza, la luz y el futuro. Oremos juntos por mí y por ellos, para tener la fuerza de seguir luchando por nuestros sueños.

Tengo fe que pronto se irá el dolor y llegará la paz. Gracias por sus bendiciones y su bondad.
Amén."

Esta niña aún tan pequeña ya tiene conciencia de cuáles son los derechos de todo ser humano.

Here & There



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

Confirmation Schedule with Bishop Bradley

Oct. 24: St. Peter Parish and San Felipe Parish, held at St. Peter Parish, Douglas 5 p.m.

Oct. 25: St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, 2:30 p.m.

Oct. 27: St. Ann Parish, Augusta, 7 p.m.

Nov. 1: SS John and Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor, 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 7: St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment, 5 p.m.

Nov. 8: Diocesan Confirmation, St. Augustine Cathedral, 3 p.m.

Nov. 22: Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan, 11 a.m.

CENTRAL DEANERY

Kalamazoo:

Oct. 10: Diocesan Encuentro Pre-Matrimonial, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pre-Marriage formation in Spanish for those who will be getting married and for married couples who would like to have a day of reflection. St. Joseph Parish, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo. Contact 269-903-0197

Oct. 24: Diocesan Annual Catechetical Conference, Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Opening Mass with Bishop Bradley at 9 a.m., new track for educators this year. Contact: Jamin Herold, 269-903-0141, jherold@diokzoo.org.

Nov. 1: All Saints Day Mass with Bishop Bradley, St. Augustine Cathedral, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 14-15: Joy-Filled Marriage Weekend, Transformations Retreat Center. Marriage Preparation weekend for engaged couples. Should be completed 6-9 months prior to wedding. Cost is $175. Contact: Jane Bodway, 269-903-0147, jbodway@diokzoo.org.

Dec. 11: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass with Bishop Bradley, St. Augustine Cathedral, 7 p.m.

Mattawan:

Nov. 7: International Dinner Fundraiser, St. John Bosco Parish, 5:30 p.m. An evening of cultural fellowship including dinner and a silent auction, funds go toward the religious education program. Cost $10/per person ($50 family max). Contact: Parish Office, 269-668-3312.

Portage:

Nov. 12: Elizabeth Ann Seton Professional Development Awards Banquet with Bishop Bradley, Beacon Club, 6 – 9 p.m.

SOUTHEAST DEANERY

Coldwater:

Nov. 4: St. Charles Feast Day School Mass with Bishop Bradley, St. Charles of Borromeo Parish, 9 a.m.

SOUTHWEST DEANERY

Dowagiac:

Oct. 15: Rose Pavilion Dedication and Blessing, Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, 5 p.m. All are invited, light refreshments provided.

Outside the Diocese

Indianapolis:

Nov. 19-21: National Catholic Youth Conference, Lucas Oil Stadium and Indiana Convention Center. Contact: Tim McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org.

JOB OPENING: ENROLLMENT/RETENTION SPECIALIST

The Office of Schools for the Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking a dynamic and results-driven individual for the position of Enrollment/Retention Specialist. Primary responsibilities for this position include the ability to provide strategic guidance in the creation and execution of a comprehensive diocesan enrollment growth plan designed to enable schools to establish enrollment objectives and the ability to assist the Catholic schools in the diocese in identifying and executing marketing and outreach recruitment tactics to meet stated enrollment objectives. Candidates must be able to demonstrate successful previous experience with school recruitment and enrollment management as well as experience working in Catholic schools, preferably in a leadership position with experience coaching educators to implement school change. A Bachelor's degree is required and a Master's degree in Education or Marketing/Communications is preferred. Please send resume, cover letter and three references to: Mrs. Margaret Erich, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Kalamazoo, 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007; Phone: (269) 349-8714; Email: merich@diokzoo.org. Deadline for submission of application materials: October 23, 2015.

Gospel of Luke Seminar offered at three locations in November

The new liturgical year, the Year of Luke, in our Lectionary readings begin in Advent. Coincidentally the Year of Luke coincides beautifully with the Year of Mercy which begins on December 8th. The Diocesan Worship Commission Rites Committee and the Worship Office are offering this overview of the gospel of Luke at three locations around the diocese in November: Wednesday, November 4, 2-4 p.m. St. Joseph Community Building, 61 N. 23rd St., Battle Creek; Transformations Spirituality Center, 3427 Gull Rd., Nazareth, 7-9 p.m.; and Thursday, November 5, St. Basil Parish Hall, 513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven, 7-9 p.m. This session will provide an overview of the persons of Jesus, the Spirit and their missions which becomes the mission of the Church. Cycle C, the year of Luke, coincides with the Year of Mercy. Cost is $15 before October 28 and $20 after. Contact: David Reilly, Office of Worship, dreilly@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0193.

Largest Catholic Youth gathering in U.S. coming to Indianapolis in November

NCYC Here I Am Lord · Aquí Estoy Señor NOVEMBER 19-21, 2015 · INDIANAPOLIS

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is a biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. Teens and their group leaders enjoy speakers, workshops, live music, electrifying large sessions, an amazing closing liturgy, and exploring faith in a supportive environment. The thematic park is a unique venue incorporating traditional exhibits with interactive, educational and recreational activities.

NCYC began in 1983 following in the footsteps of its predecessor conference, the CYO biennial national convention. In its early days, NCYC was held regionally, one session for each coast. Combined attendance at the regional conferences was a few thousand. In 1991, the two conferences merged into one national event. In the mid 1990s, interest in NCYC began to increase. Today, NCYC draws more than 25,000 youth and adults for three days of catechesis, prayer and worship, service and recreation and celebration of the Sacraments.

NCYC 2015 will return to Indianapolis, November 19-21, 2015. The theme is, "Here I Am Lord * Aqui Estoy Senor". Contact Tim McNamara, Associate Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, for more information on the conference and registration information through your parish; tmcnamara@diokzoo.org; 269-903-0139.

Holy Maternity of Mary to dedicate and bless new building addition

Holy Maternity of Mary Parish will host a dedication and blessing ceremony for the new addition to their Pastoral Center, the Rose Pavilion, on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015 at 5 p.m. The new pavilion fills a need for meeting space and will be available for general parish meetings, educational gatherings, community meetings and other functions. It also includes ADA restroom facilities and ADA access to the Parish Center, which houses the general offices of the parish. This construction was made possible by a generous bequest from the Rose Trojan Trust. All are invited; light refreshments will be provided.

St. Catherine of Siena hosts 12th annual fair trade Marketplace Nov. 14

Responding to the call to support fair trade, St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Portage will host the 12th annual Marketplace on Saturday, Nov. 14—a unique shopping experience for purchasing food, gifts and crafts sold by fair trade and "agent of change" vendors from around the world. The parish's Marian Hall will be transformed into an international marketplace from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering an early opportunity to shop for holiday gifts and fair trade products. Entrance is free and open to the public.

"More than 600 people attended the 2014 Marketplace, and with their buying power they made a positive difference in our world," said Ed Bachleda. "Marketplace is a fair trade, non-profit endeavor of St. Catherine's Justice Mission that has grown to include collaboration with the Justice Mission at St. Tom's. All profits go to the vendors to support their continued good work helping workers of the world to be fairly compensated for the goods and services they produce."

For more information, contact Margie Stinson at edmargie@sbcglobal.net or 269-501-6041.

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Stand up for your values with thousands of other Catholics! By joining the Catholic Advocacy Network, you will receive brief email updates on issues like human life, religious liberty, poverty, education, children and families, and immigration, as well as have opportunities to contact your state elected officials about these critical issues. **Sign up now at www.micatholic.org/can/**

Catholic Advocacy Network

CAN is an outreach of the Michigan Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan. Find **Michigan Catholic Conference** on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

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: 877-802-0115**.

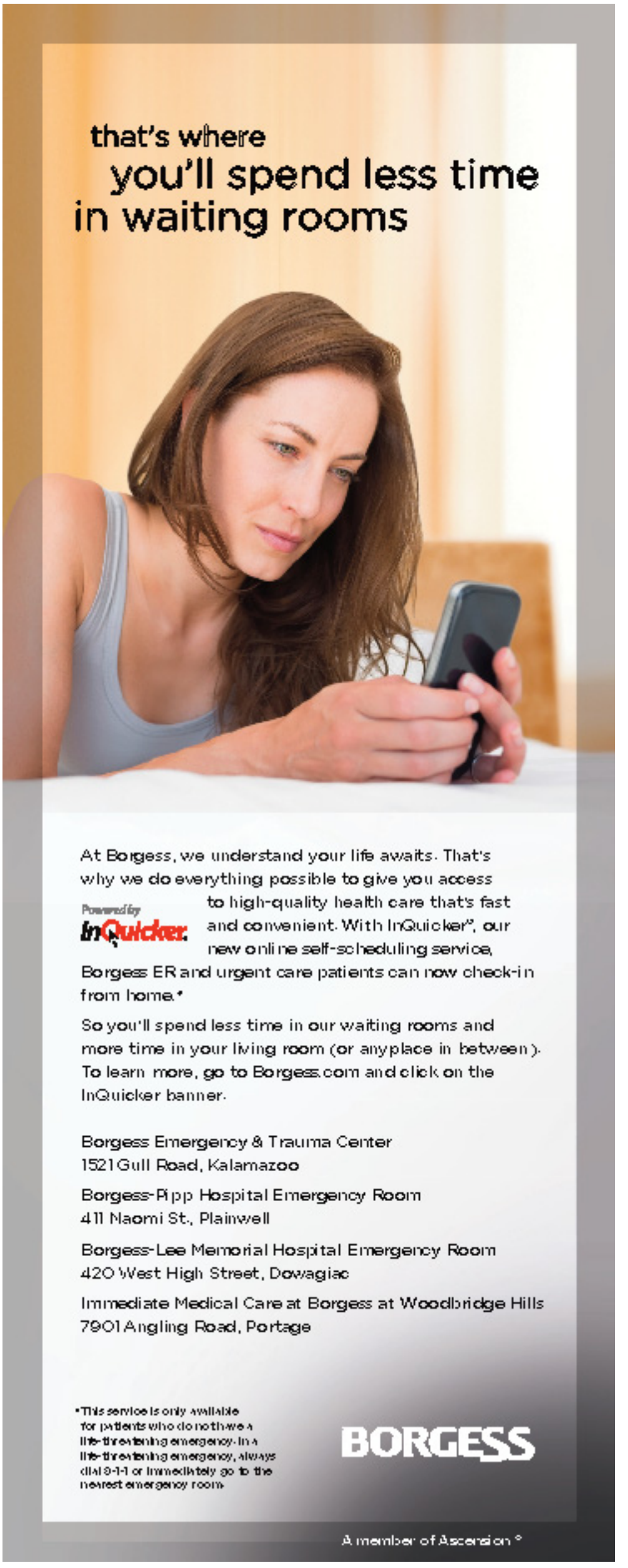
A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This toll-free telephone number has been established as a part of the diocese's effort to protect children, young people and other vulnerable people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

Fourteen diaconate candidates receive the Rite of Installation to the Ministry of Lector

Fourteen candidates in their second year of formation for the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Kalamazoo were installed to the Ministry of Lector (Reader) by the Bishop Paul J. Bradley at St. Augustine Cathedral on September 12, 2015.

According to the Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons, "Before anyone may be promoted to the diaconate, whether permanent or transitory, he must have received the ministries of lector and acolyte, and have exercised them for an appropriate time," so that he may "be better disposed for the future service of the word and the altar" (57).

Picture left: Fran Denny, President/CEO, Catholic Charities of Diocese of Kalamazoo, painted the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) mural that will be displayed at a Philadelphia Catholic School. With 20,000 attendees at the WMOF, painter volunteers set a Guinness World Record for the number of painters of one mural.

Pictured below left: St. Philip Catholic Central High School students gathered with Very Rev. John Fleckenstein, Vicar of Catholic Education, to watch Pope Francis address the United Nations.

Pictured below: Students at St. Basil Catholic Elementary School, South Haven, begin the month of October by praying the rosary using balloons to mark the different decades.