



Kalamazoo United invites ministry leaders to event planning kick-off

Kalamazoo United, Catholic and Protestants coming together to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, started out as a nagging thought with Jeff Wenke, pastor of The Bridge Church, Portage. Now after months of meetings and plans a core committee is hoping to expand awareness by inviting key ministry leaders to a kick-off prayer event on May 8th at 6 p.m. at Wenke's Church.

The event aims to increase awareness for Kalamazoo United's community event scheduled for Sunday, October 29th at 4 p.m. at Wings Stadium in Kalamazoo.

"We believe God is stirring a new level of unity in our city," wrote Pastor Wenke in his letter

to ministry leaders. During the kick-off event, clergy and ministry leaders will come together with Bishop Bradley and Pastor Wenke for prayer and to learn more about the vision and strategy for Kalamazoo United.

Current plans are underway for additional prayer gatherings scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th at Greater Faith Church; Tuesday, August 8th, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo and September 12th at a location to be determined. A rally event will be held at St. Augustine Cathedral on September 24th at 4 p.m.

Planning for the 2017 event began in late September as Bishop Bradley hosted a series of informal gatherings of local ministers at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in downtown Kalamazoo [The Good News, November 2016].

"I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm and dialogue from our Protestant brothers and sisters for this effort toward a show of our unity," said Bishop Bradley.

For more information visit:
www.kalamazooisunited.com

Members of the Kalamazoo United Planning Committee met last month at St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage to discuss continuing plans for the upcoming events. Shown left, are: Rev. Randall Warren, St. Luke Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo; Rev. Laura Osborne, Director: International Student Fellowship, Western Michigan University and Rev. Curry Pickkard President of the Southwest Michigan Classis, Reformed Church in America.



Pope's laundry for homeless has Whirlpool connection

Thanks to Benton Harbor-based Whirlpool Corporation the first washing machines and tumble dryers for the homeless in Rome whirled into action last month as "Pope Francis" Laundry' opened its doors to provide a much-needed service. The company's European branch donated six, latest generation washers and six dryers along with several irons.

According to a report by Vatican Radio one of the many difficulties for those who live on the streets is to be able to wash, dry and iron their clothes and blankets, and the Vatican-sponsored laundry is a response to Pope Francis's invitation to give concrete signs of solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.



Shown above is the laundromat organized by the papal charities office and the Community of Sant'Egidio to serve the homeless in Rome, Italy. Credit: Comunità di Sant'Egidio

A news release issued by the Apostolic Almoner quotes from the Pope's Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et misera*, at the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy: "The desire for closeness to Christ requires us to draw near to our brothers and sisters, for nothing is more pleasing to the Father than a true sign of mercy. By its very nature, mercy becomes visible and tangible in specific acts."

"Here is a concrete sign wanted by the office of Papal Charities: a place and a service to give concrete form to charity to restore dignity to so many people who are our brothers and sisters and who are called, with us, to build a city we can trust," said Archbishop Konrad Krajewski.

Pope Francis' Office of Papal Charities has already set up showers, a barber shop, a dormitory, a healthcare clinic and a pharmacy for the poor in the eternal city. What was missing, until now, was a laundry service, an urgent need indeed as Archbishop Krajewski explained: "One of the greatest difficulties for those who live on the streets, along with that of finding food, a place to spend the night and public baths, is to wash and dry the clothes they wear, in many cases the only ones they own".

The laundry room is located at the "People of Peace Center" run by the Sant'Egidio Community at the old hospital complex of San Gallicano, in the central Trastevere area of Rome.



Shown above is the Our Lady of Fatima grotto at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City. Praying in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13th of each month from May through October is one condition of a plenary indulgence. See page 7 for more information.

Parishes host celebrations to mark Centennial anniversary for Our Lady of Fatima

As Catholics worldwide ready for celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance to shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, opportunities are available in the Diocese to mark this historic event. Parishes are planning a variety of special events from May Crownings to special Masses and prayer services beginning this month and throughout the summer and to October which marks the anniversary of the sixth apparition.

The diocese's only namesake parish, Our Lady of Fatima, Union City, will mark the 100th anniversary with a special Mass on May 13th at 4:30 p.m. Beginning 45 minutes prior to Mass parishioner Rosanne Toney will lead the rosary outdoors at the Our Lady of Fatima Grotto. Also, before and after Mass, the Crowning of Our Blessed Mother will be held. Crowning indoors will occur at the beginning of Mass and outdoor crowning immediately after Mass. A dessert reception will be held immediately following.

For more information on Our Lady of Fatima, additional local events and requirements for a plenary indulgence see page 7.



Diocese hosts Memorial Day Mass at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery

A Diocesan Memorial Day Mass will be held May 29th at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery, 2003 Mt Olivet Rd, Kalamazoo Township, at 10 a.m. This year Mt. Olivet will once again participate in the national Catholic Cemeteries celebration, "Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to our Heroes." Active and veteran military members are invited to participate in the liturgy. Msgr. Michael Osborn will be the celebrant. Veterans and military are invited to serve as flag and candle bearers during the opening and closing processions at Mass and also are invited to serve as lectors, participate in the presentation of the gifts. For more information contact: Mike Emmons, memmons@diokzoo.org.



FROM THE EDITOR

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

During a recent religious education lesson for my first graders, I was quizzing them on the Trinity. As I completed my rather crude drawing of a triangle on the chalkboard I asked the children who belonged on each of the three points.

As they shouted, “God! Jesus! The Holy Spirit!” one precious little girl, furrowed her brow, shot up her hand and asked, “Hey, what about Mary?”

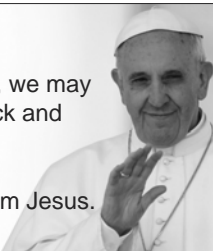
I was touched by her innocent yet profound question. She clearly recognized our Blessed Mother’s importance and felt very protective of her, not wishing her to be overlooked. At the same time she seemed to be working out how Mary fits into the equation.

May is a great time to ruminate on this very question of Mary’s importance in our faith. As young children, like my student, we’re drawn to Mary’s gentleness reflected in Nativity plays and beautiful artwork. As we mature we begin to grasp intellectually her many important roles in our own spiritual journey from our Intercessor to her Son to being our model for selflessness and sacrifice.

In his homily this past January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Pope Francis paints a beautiful image of Mary as one who’s always with us, guiding us with the love of a Mother. He said, “In the Gospels, Mary appears as a woman of few words, with no great speeches or deeds, but with an attentive gaze capable of guarding the life and mission of her Son, and for this reason, of everything that he loves. She was able to watch over the beginnings of the first Christian community, and in this way she learned to be the mother of a multitude. She drew near to the most diverse situations in order to sow hope. She accompanied the crosses borne in the silence of her children’s hearts. How many devotions, shrines and chapels in the most far-off places, how many pictures in our homes, remind us of this great truth. Mary gave us a mother’s warmth, the warmth that shelters us amid troubles, the maternal warmth that keeps anything or anyone from extinguishing in the heart of the Church the revolution of tenderness inaugurated by her Son. Where there is a mother, there is tenderness. By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong. She teaches us that we do not have to mistreat others in order to feel important (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288).” This month as you plant flowers around your Mary statue or attend a May Crowning or pray the rosary, may you be blessed by the warmth of Mary’s love and guided by her example.

Pope Francis MAY Intentions

Universal: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.
Evangelization: That Mary’s intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.



The Good News for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

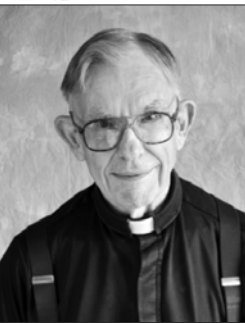
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+Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

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The Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
PUBLISHER
Victoria Cessna, 269-903-0163
COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR & EDITOR
Terry L. Hageman, 269-903-0173
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, GRAPHICS & ADVERTISING
Veronica Rodriguez, 269-903-0209
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR HISPANIC MINISTRY,
SPANISH EDITOR
Sarah DeMott, 269-903-0144
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



Leo A. Taubitz, 86, who passed away peacefully on April 23rd just two days shy of his 87th birthday. Fr. Taubitz had been challenged with declining health in recent years.

Fr. Taubitz was born in Gaines, Mich., on April 25, 1930, son of Anna (Allen) and Charles Taubitz. He was a graduate of both Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit and St. John Seminary, Plymouth, Mich. He was ordained to the Priesthood on June 2, 1956 for the Diocese of Lansing. He became an incardinated priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo upon the diocese’s founding in 1971.

Fr. Taubitz served in a number of parishes in the Diocese of Lansing and in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. His last assignment before retirement was as Pastor, Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac (1991-2011) and Canonical Pastor, Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek. He retired in 2011 and returned to his hometown. [see Fr Taubitz biography for detailed parish assignment information.]

“Fr. Taubitz was a faithful priest and a good pastor with much of his 60 years of priesthood given in his 20 years to the people of Holy Maternity of Mary Parish in Dowagiac,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. During his ministry Fr. Taubitz was credited with being instrumental in the building of St. Gabriel Parish, Berrien Springs and continuing involvement in migrant ministry during his time at St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan. He was known as an avid cyclist and hobbyist.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking candidates to serve as Director of Development

Reporting to the Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, the Director of Development will manage the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, grow the assets of the diocesan Foundation, coordinate major fundraising initiatives and provide stewardship educational opportunities to parishes. The Director of Development will serve as a member of the Bishop’s Leadership Team (BLT) and be responsible for expanding, encouraging and enriching philanthropic giving in the Diocese.
A full position description and contact information is available at www.diokzoo.org

Diocesan Announcements

Rev. Leo A. Taubitz passes away on Divine Mercy Sunday
Retired priest ministered across the diocese

Last month Bishop Bradley and priests from around the Diocese along with family, friends and former parishioners gathered at Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac, to honor the life and ministry of Rev.



Fr. Leo Taubitz Priestly Assignments:
Priestly Assignments Diocese of Lansing:

1959-1958	Assistant	Holy Redeemer, Flint, MI
1958-1963	Assistant	St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, MI
1963-1965	Assistant	St. Mary, Jackson, MI
1965-1966	Assistant	St. Paul, Owosso, MI
1966-1967	Assistant	St. Mary, Mt. Morris, MI

Priestly Assignments:
Diocese of Kalamazoo (Est. 1971)

1967-1974	Pastor	Holy Family Parish, Decatur,
1974-1981	Pastor	St. Bernard, Benton Harbor, MI
1981-1991	Pastor	St. Anthony, Buchanan, MI
1991-2011	Pastor	Holy Maternity of Mary Parish, Dowagiac, MI
Canonical Pastor, Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek (Quasi Parish)		
2011	Senior Priest Status	

Relief aid sought for victims of mudslides in Colombia

Extreme rainfall in southern Colombia has caused massive mudslides in the municipality of Mocoa. It is estimated that hundreds of people have been reported killed, along with 203 injured, 220 missing, more than 300 families and five schools affected. The Diocese has many ties to Colombia with several of our priests serving here from the area (Rev. Leo Cartagena, St. Anthony, Buchanan is from The Diocese of Mocoa; Rev. Fabio Garzon, St. Peter Parish, Douglas; Rev. Evelio Ramirez, Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis and Rev. German Perez Diaz as well as the Missionary Sisters of the Divine Spirit, San Felipe de Jesus, Fennville, are from the neighboring Diocese of Medellin which Bishop Bradley visited this past January. While Catholic Relief Services (CRS) does not have programming or presence in the affected area, it is working with Caritas Colombia, who has activated an assessment team and has also received information from local Church partners that up to 19 neighborhoods in Mocoa have been swept away, there has been massive damage to infrastructure as well as public water and electricity systems. CRS is supporting church partners as they distribute emergency supplies, establish shelters and food pantries and providing trauma counseling, specifically to affected youth. We ask you keep our brothers and sisters in Colombia close in prayer and we invite you to prayerfully consider your own contribution to the effort. Visit www.crs.org to learn more.



THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

Mary: Mother and Disciple

Spring is undoubtedly my favorite season of the year, and these recent days are proof positive as to why that is. First of all, nature is coming back to life, and the evidence is everywhere: the birds are chirping, the daffodils and tulips are blooming, the trees are flowering, and the sound of lawnmowers and hedge-cutters morning, noon and evening are indicative of growth all around us. As I drive throughout the Diocese, I am consistently inspired by the beauty of this part of the world in which we live. And of course, it reminds me of the great challenge that God has given us to be good and responsible stewards of His creation.

Besides the joy of celebrating nature's beauty, the second and even more important reason why this is my favorite time of the year is that we are in the midst of the Easter Season. For 50 days (seven weeks) we get to celebrate the New Life of the Risen Jesus and what that means for each of us who are baptized into His Life and who thereby share in the victory He won for us on Easter. Alleluia!

And thirdly, this month is filled with wonderful celebrations: Mother's Day, First Communions, Confirmations, graduations, weddings, and best of all, a month dedicated in a special way to honor our Blessed Mother with May Crownings, special Marian devotions and the beautiful Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th. This year's celebration of this feast is even more special since we observe the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's first of several appearances to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal on May 13, 1917. (see cover story and page 7). For many of us in our earliest days of childhood, devotion to our Blessed Mother began and has been an integral part of our spiritual lives since then; for others of us, perhaps devotion to Mary may still be new to us, or we may even be unfamiliar with it in any way.

As Catholics we are well aware there are several very important Solemn Feast Days/Holy Days of Obligation which honor the special role that Mary plays in our faith. The very first day of the calendar year, January 1st, honors Mary the Mother of God; March 25th celebrates the Annunciation; August 15th is the day when we remember the Assumption of Mary's body into Heaven; December 8th celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception; and of course December 25th celebrates Jesus' Birth through His Blessed Mother. These are all very special events that are significant in and essential to Jesus' act of saving the world. And of course, in addition to this month of special devotion to Mary, we also dedicate the month of October to special devotion to the Rosary.

The Virgin Mary, a human being like any other human person, was kept special and unique among all other human beings by being the only person born in the normal course of human events (through the love of her human parents) to be kept free from Original Sin. That is what we celebrate on the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th). Though Mary freely chose to say “Yes” to the request of the Archangel Gabriel on behalf of God to become the Mother of God's only-begotten Son through the power of the Holy Spirit (which is what we celebrate on the Holy Day of the Annunciation on March 25th), God anticipated her “Yes”/her “Fiat” and kept her from the stain of Original Sin, and remained sinless throughout the rest of her life in this world. And it was due to her sinless and consistently faithful life that God assumed her body and soul into Heaven, which is what we celebrate on the Holy Day of the Assumption on August 15th. As we can readily see, each of these events is intrinsically connected with Mary's role as being the Mother of Jesus, as He was conceived within her womb for nine months, was given birth on Christmas, and throughout the remainder of Jesus' human life in this world, she remained His mother and first disciple, who consistently said “Yes” to whatever Jesus asked in terms of faith.

We celebrate Mary with such high regard and great devotion because she was Jesus' mother and because she was His first and most faithful disciple. That was true throughout the number of years that she lived in this earthly world, and that has been the case throughout all of human history ever since from her heavenly home. She continues to say “Yes” to Jesus and to do everything she can to help all of humanity to say “Yes” to Jesus. Mary has little to say that is recorded in the Gospels, but she was always present to Jesus and followed Him throughout His public ministry, along the way to Calvary, at the foot of the cross until Jesus died, and received Jesus' dead body into her maternal arms and helped to lay Him in the tomb. There were few words recorded; only generous acts of love; only a constant “Yes” to Jesus. The words that *are* recorded in the Gospels are powerful and faith-filled. Besides saying “Yes” to the Angel Gabriel, and in addition to her “song of praise” that has become part of the Church's prayer life known as the Magnificat, Mary's final recorded words in the Gospel is found in the Gospel of St. John at the account of the Wedding Feast of Cana. After she urged Jesus to consider working His first miracle to save the young married couple from embarrassment at their wedding reception, Mary said to the waiters: “*Do whatever He tells you.*” Those powerful words of our Blessed Mother



LA PERSPECTIVA DEL OBISPO

María: Madre y Discípula

La primavera es, sin duda, mi estación favorita del año, y estos últimos días son la prueba positiva de por qué lo es. En primer lugar, la naturaleza está volviendo a la vida y la evidencia está en todas partes: los pájaros cantan, los narcisos y los tulipanes florecen, los árboles florecen y el sonido de las cortadoras de césped por la mañana, al mediodía y por la noche son indicativos de crecimiento a nuestro alrededor. Mientras conduzco por la Diócesis, estoy constantemente inspirado en la belleza de esta parte del mundo en el que vivimos. Y por supuesto, me recuerda el gran desafío que Dios nos ha dado de ser buenos y responsables administradores de Su creación.

Además de la alegría de celebrar la belleza de la naturaleza, la segunda e incluso más importante razón por la que esta es mi época favorita del año es que estamos en medio de la temporada de Pascua. Durante 50 días — siete semanas — celebramos la Nueva Vida de Jesús Resucitado y lo que eso significa para cada uno de nosotros que somos bautizados en Su Vida y que por lo tanto compartimos la Victoria que Él ganó para nosotros en Pascua. ¡Aleluia!

En tercer lugar, este mes está lleno de celebraciones maravillosas: el Día de la Madre, Primeras Comuniones, Confirmaciones, graduaciones, bodas, y lo mejor de todo, un mes dedicado de manera especial a honrar a nuestra Santísima Madre con las Coronas de Mayo, devociones marianas especiales y la hermosa Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Fátima el 13 de mayo. La celebración de este año es aún más especial, ya que se observa el 100 aniversario de la primera aparición de Nuestra Señora a los tres niños pastores de Fátima, Portugal, el 13 de mayo de 1917. (véase la historia en la portada y la página 7). Para muchos de nosotros fue desde nuestros primeros días de infancia, cuando la devoción a nuestra Santísima Madre comenzó y ha sido una parte integral de nuestra vida espiritual desde entonces; Para otros de nosotros, tal vez la devoción a María puede ser nueva, o incluso podemos no estar familiarizados con ella en ninguna manera.

Como católicos somos muy conscientes de que hay varios días de fiestas solemnes muy importantes / Días de precepto que honran el papel especial que María juega en nuestra fe. El primer día del año calendario, 1 de enero, honra a María, la Madre de Dios; El 25 de marzo celebra la Anunciación; El 15 de agosto es el día en que recordamos la Asunción del cuerpo de María al Cielo; El 8 de diciembre celebramos la Inmaculada Concepción de María; Y por supuesto el 25 de diciembre celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús a través de su Madre Bendita. Estos son eventos muy especiales que son significativos y esenciales en el acto de Jesús de salvar al mundo. Y, por supuesto, además de este mes de especial devoción a María, también dedicamos el mes de octubre a la devoción especial al Rosario.

La Virgen María, un ser humano como cualquier otra persona humana, se mantuvo especial y única entre todos los demás seres humanos por ser la única persona nacida en el curso normal de eventos de la vida humana (a través del amor de sus padres humanos) mantenida libre del Pecado Original. Eso es lo que celebramos el Día de precepto de la Inmaculada Concepción (8 de diciembre). Aunque María eligió libremente decir “Sí” a la solicitud del Arcángel Gabriel en nombre de Dios de convertirse en la Madre del Hijo unigénito de Dios a través del poder del Espíritu Santo (que es lo que celebramos en el Día de precepto de la Anunciación El 25 de marzo), Dios anticipó su “Sí” / su “Fiat” y la mantuvo alejada de la mancha del Pecado Original, y permaneció sin pecado durante el resto de su vida en este mundo. Y fue debido a su vida sin pecado y consistentemente fiel que Dios asumió su cuerpo y alma al Cielo, que es lo que celebramos en el Día de precepto de la Asunción el 15 de agosto. Como podemos ver fácilmente, cada uno de estos eventos está intrínsecamente conectado con el papel de María como Madre de Jesús, como fue concebido dentro de su vientre durante nueve meses, nacido en Navidad y durante el resto de la vida humana de Jesús en este mundo, ella permaneció Su Madre y primera Discípula, quien consistentemente dijo “Sí” a lo que Jesús pidió en términos de fe.

Celebramos a María con tanta consideración y gran devoción porque es la Madre de Jesús y porque fue Su primera y más fiel discípula. Eso fue cierto durante el número de años que vivió en este mundo terrenal, y eso ha sido el caso a través de toda la historia humana desde entonces desde su Hogar Celestial. Ella continúa diciendo “Sí” a Jesús y hacer todo lo posible para ayudar a toda la humanidad a decir “Sí” a Jesús. María tiene poco que decir registrado en los Evangelios, pero siempre estuvo presente a Jesús y lo siguió a lo largo de su ministerio público, a lo largo del Camino al Calvario, al pie de la Cruz hasta que Jesús murió, y recibió Su cuerpo muerto en Sus brazos maternos y ayudó a ponerlo en la tumba. Hubo pocas palabras registradas; Sólo generosos actos de amor; Sólo un constante “Sí” a Jesús. Las palabras que están registradas en los Evangelios son poderosas y llenas de fe. Además de decir “Sí” al Ángel Gabriel, y además de su Canto de Alabanza que se ha convertido en parte de la vida de oración de la Iglesia conocida como el Magnificat, las últimas palabras registradas de María en el Evangelio se encuentran en el

Catholic Charities is recruiting ambassadors

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking ambassadors to assist them in raising awareness of the agencies mission. Each year Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo (CCDOK) serves 8,500 people across the nine counties that make up the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Through its programs, which include Caring Network, Ark Services for Youth, Baraga Manor and Bridges Mental Health counseling the agency serves babies, families, youth, adults and seniors. This year Catholic Charities is committed to expanding its reach. Volunteers are needed for Catholic Charities' Community Engagement Council and to serve as an Ambassador for the agency, helping connect with new community groups and organizations as well as potential donors, volunteers, and clients.

**For more information contact Jeannine Boehm,
Phone: 269-381-9800 or Email: info@ccdok.org.**



Shown from left: Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo volunteers Christina Bartholomew, Kristen Gleason, Carmen McKinney, Kristen Cipich and Colleen Dawson donate their time to Caring Network.

Deadline to apply for next Permanent Diaconate class is May 25th

This coming September Bishop Bradley will ordain, God willing, 13 men from across the Diocese as Permanent Deacons. As those men finish their formation and look toward ordination plans are underway to begin a new class of deacon candidates this fall. This past March Bishop Bradley issued the official call for men to discern whether they have a call to the vocation of Permanent Deacon as a new class will begin the six-year formation process in September 2017. Informational meetings on the Permanent Diaconate hosted by Deacon John Bodway, Director of Deacon Formation, were held in March and April in all five deaneries. **Anyone still interested in learning more should contact the Diaconate Office (269-903-0151) or Deacon John Bodway, Director of Deacon Formation at deaconjohnbodway@aol.com. The criteria for men seeking this vocation can be found at www.diokzoo.org/deacon-formation. The deadline to submit an application for the Permanent Diaconate is May 25th.**



Deacon John Bodway, Director of Deacon Formation, St. Jude Parish, Gobles, shares information on the Permanent Diaconate during a recent informational meeting at St. Edward Parish, Mendon. The deadline to apply for the permanent diaconate formation program is May 25th.

THE BISHOP'S PERSPECTIVE

remain the most important directives for each of us in terms of how we should live our lives. Mary is constantly urging us to *do whatever Jesus tells us*.

Our devotion to Mary is not about Mary; it's always about Mary urging us to draw ever closer to her Son — to do whatever Jesus tells us to do. Since our sins are contradictions to what Jesus tells us to do, Mary also tells us to turn away from sin; to repent; to convert our lives and to draw closer to Jesus. That was Mary, Our Lady of Fatima's, message to the three children on the various appearances she made to them over a period of time, beginning on May 13, 1917 in the midst of World War I. Rather than appearing to world leaders, Mary chose to appear to 10-year old Lucia Dos Santos, and her cousins Francisco (age 9) and Jacinta (age 7) Marto with a "Peace Plan" for the world. The three-part plan was simple, but profoundly effective: 1) "Do whatever Jesus tells you."; 2) pray; and 3) do penance and turn away from sin. That is the message that Mary constantly gives, whether it is in Fatima, Lourdes, Mexico or any other place. If all humanity would follow that three-part plan, there would be peace in the world. Unfortunately we know that has not happened. And so we must begin with ourselves. I can guarantee you that if/when each of us lives according to that simple but profoundly effective spiritual "peace-plan," we will find peace in our hearts. We will find ourselves moving outside our own concerns and personal worries.

When we "do whatever Jesus tells us," we will find ourselves naturally doing what Jesus told us were the most important commands of all: to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We will find ourselves living up to the challenges of the Parables of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the Parable of the Final Judgment as we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, and care for all those in need in the name of Jesus.

We have such deep devotion to our Blessed Mother not just during this month of May but always because she asks nothing for herself; it's all about bringing us and all the world to her Son Jesus — to conversion of hearts and minds — to living in this world according to the example of Jesus in leading by serving/washing the feet of others. It's all about "Doing whatever Jesus tells us"; it's all about saying "Yes".

While many of us know this beautiful hymn by-heart, it's well-worth reflecting on and singing especially in this month of special devotion to our dear Blessed Mother:

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly; Virgin Mother undefiled.

Sing of God's own Son most holy, Who became her little Child.

Fairest Child of fairest Mothers, God the Lord Who came to earth.

Word made flesh, our very Brother, takes our nature by His Birth.

God bless you and our Diocesan Family of Faith!

Evangelio de San Juan en la narración de la fiesta de las bodas de Cana. Después de instar a Jesús a considerar su primer milagro para salvar a la joven pareja de vergüenza en su recepción de boda, María dijo a los camareros: *"Hagan lo que Él les diga."*

Esas poderosas palabras de nuestra Santísima Madre siguen siendo las directrices más importantes para cada uno de nosotros en términos de cómo debemos vivir nuestras vidas. María nos insta constantemente a *hacer lo que Jesús nos dice*.

Nuestra devoción a María no es sobre María; Siempre se trata de María instándonos a acercarnos cada vez más a su Hijo — a hacer lo que Jesús nos dice que hagamos. Puesto que nuestros pecados son contradicciones a lo que Jesús nos dice que hagamos, María también nos dice que nos alejemos del pecado; que nos arrepintamos; que convirtamos nuestras vidas y que nos acerquemos más a Jesús. Ese fue el mensaje de María, Nuestra Señora de Fátima, a los tres niños en las diversas apariciones que les hizo durante un período de tiempo, comenzando el 13 de mayo de 1917 en medio de la Primera Guerra Mundial. En lugar de aparecer ante los líderes mundiales, María eligió aparecer a Lucia Dos Santos, de 10 años, y a sus primos Francisco (9 años) y Jacinta (7 años) Marto con un "Plan de Paz" para el mundo. El plan de tres partes era simple, pero profundamente eficaz: 1) "Hagan lo que Jesús les diga."; 2) oren; Y 3) hagan penitencia y apártense del pecado. Ese es el mensaje que María constantemente da, ya sea en Fátima, Lourdes, México o en cualquier otro lugar. Si toda la humanidad siguiera ese plan de tres partes, habría paz en el mundo. Desafortunadamente sabemos que no ha ocurrido. Y así debemos comenzar con nosotros mismos. Puedo garantizarles que, si/cuando cada uno de nosotros vive de acuerdo con ese "plan de paz" espiritual simple pero profundamente eficaz, encontraremos paz en nuestros corazones. Nos encontraremos moviéndonos fuera de nuestras propias ansiedades y preocupaciones personales. Cuando "hacemos lo que Jesús nos dice", nos encontraremos naturalmente haciendo lo que Jesús nos dijo que eran los mandamientos más importantes de todos: amar a Dios con todo nuestro corazón, alma, mente y fuerza; y amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos. Nos encontraremos a la altura de los desafíos de las Parábolas del Buen Samaritano, del Hijo Pródigo y de la Parábola del Juicio Final al dar de comer al hambriento, dar de beber al sediento, vestir al desnudo, albergar al sintecho, visitar al enfermo y cuidar a todos los necesitados en el nombre de Jesús.

Tenemos una devoción tan profunda a nuestra Santísima Madre no sólo durante este mes de mayo, sino siempre porque ella no pide nada para sí misma; Se trata de traernos a nosotros y a todo el mundo a su Hijo Jesús — a la conversión de corazones y mentes — de vivir en este mundo según el ejemplo de Jesús en liderar sirviendo / lavando los pies de otros. Se trata de "Hacer lo que Jesús nos dice"; Se trata de decir "Sí".

Si bien muchos de nosotros conocemos este hermoso himno de memoria, vale la pena reflexionar y cantar sobre todo en este mes de especial devoción a nuestra querida Madre Bendita:

Canten de María, pura y humilde; Virgen Madre inmaculada.

Canten del propio Hijo de Dios santo, quien se convirtió en su pequeño hijo.

Hermoso Hijo de la madre más hermosa, Dios el Señor que vino a la tierra.

El Verbo hecho carne, nuestro mismo Hermano, toma nuestra naturaleza por Su Nacimiento.

¡Que Dios lo bendiga a ustedes y a nuestra Familia Diocesana de Fe!

May 7th marks 54th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

“Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2)

Celebrated on May 7, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations is a way of continually bringing this call to a particular vocation to the forefront of our faith practices.

In his message for the Day of Prayer, Pope Francis highlighted how we are all called to grow in our relationship with Christ through our vocation, whether that be to single, married or religious life. This relationship, he says, “entails being sent out into the world as prophets of his word and witnesses of his love.”

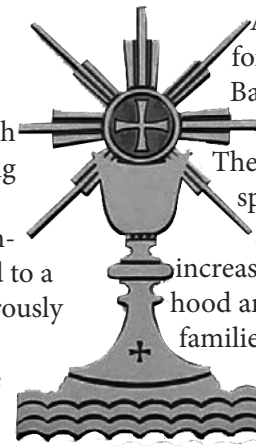
Our Holy Father continued, “by virtue of baptism, every Christian is a ‘Christopher,’ a bearer of Christ, to his brothers and sisters. This is particularly the case with those called to a life of special consecration and with priests, who have generously responded, ‘Here I am, Lord, send me!’”

In a special way, we are called as members of the Diocese of Kalamazoo this year to remember the two young men who will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 24 at 10 a.m., Jeff Hanley and Max Nightingale, as well as those men and women currently discerning a call to religious life.

“There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer,” says Pope Francis. “The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God’s word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged ‘place’ for our encounter with God.”



Deacon Jeff Hanley and Deacon Max Nightingale (shown above) will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 24, 2017.



Traveling Chalice Program

As a way to encourage prayer for vocations, St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek participates in the Traveling Chalice Program.

The program encourages in a special way parishioners to pray specifically for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life and allows families to sign-up to take the chalice home with them for the week to pray as a family for vocations.

The program has also been used in other parishes throughout the diocese. Is your parish interested in starting something similar or do you already have a special way to encourage prayer for vocations?

Contact our Vocations Office at 269-903-0203.

New name plus new location equals great opportunity for young adult fellowship

By **Sarah DeMott**

Good News and Brews is exactly what it sounds like. The ministry formerly associated with Renew International’s Theology on Tap program is getting a facelift via the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s new “Good News and Brews” young adult ministry program.

“We changed the name in hopes of reigniting the series for those who attended Theology on Tap while also attracting a new audience,” says Tim McNamara, Associate Director for Young Adult Ministry at the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Good News and Brews will be hosted the second Thursday of the month starting May 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Private Dining Room at Arcadia Brewing Company’s downtown Kalamazoo location. The format of the evening will feature

dynamic speakers, engaging theological topics and time for fellowship. Anyone from college through their 30s is welcome to attend. There is no entry fee.

“People want relationships,” adds McNamara. “Having a community of folks in the same general stage of life, heading the same direction, helps make life easier and provides the support we crave. Knowing that you can come share a meal with people who also want to view this life through the lens of faith helps us know we aren’t alone and that we have like-minded people, as well as God, to walk alongside us on this journey of life.”

McNamara is grateful for a new collaboration with Arcadia Brewing Company which is generously providing space and event promotion to Good News and Brews free of charge.

For more information, contact Tim McNamara, 269-903-0139 or tmcnamara@diokzoo.org.

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The Other Six Days

Inside Out Prayer

By **Jane Knuth and Ellen Knuth**

Jane: My sister-in-law Kim is telling me about hydras, microscopic creatures, something like plankton, who live in the ocean. “Scientists believe these creatures are biologically immortal. They do experiments where they dangle a fine hair in front of some hydra to entice one to swallow it. Then they pull the hair and the hydra turns itself inside out. It seems like this would be a disaster except it has the ability to rearrange itself and gradually become normal again.”

I ponder this a moment. “Sometimes, life feels like that.” Kim nods. “Yes. Life events can turn us inside out. Then we have to put together a new normal us.”

Ellen: Everyone approaches prayer in different ways, and that’s what I like about it. For some it is a shared activity; a way to bring together and unite. For others, prayer is a silent meditation, most comfortable when alone and in silence. For me, prayer is a foundation, a way to work back into some form of myself when the various threads of life have turned me inside out and upside down. Depending on how disoriented I feel, my prayer takes different forms: sometimes a song, occasionally an old standard from my childhood, more often than not it has fewer words than heartfelt feelings that I put out in front of me and ask for help in sorting through.

Apart from the plankton, Merriam Webster lists three other definitions of “hydra.” One is the mythological monster slain by Hercules, another is the constellation, and the final definition is as follows: “a multifarious evil not to be overcome by a single effort.” To be sure, a single effort seldom solves all our worries or untangles all the threads, but thank goodness for a place to start!

Jane: Ellen and Kim make me think differently about prayer. Life turns me inside out and prayer leads me to a new normal. God rests in the turning and works in the leading and I, unlike the hydra, struggle against both.



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Hospital chaplains bring Christ's love to the sick

By Vicki Cessna

While they may pop in and out of people's lives quickly and quietly as they bless them, administer the sacrament of the sick, comfort worried family members, the three dedicated hospital chaplains in the Diocese are there at some of the most challenging times in a person's life.

It was May 2016 that Bishop Bradley announced new priestly assignments for more than 80 percent of the priests serving in the Diocese. Three of those priests, Rev. Harold Potter, Rev. Kevin Covert and Rev. Rob Johansen were assigned to the special ministry of hospital chaplains. The three priests were known to have a special affinity for this important ministry and thus began a more dedicated effort.

Fr. Covert, who resides at St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment and helps out in pastoral ministry at the parish as well, is chaplain at Borgess Ascension Health, Kalamazoo. In addition to visiting patients in the area's largest Catholic healthcare system, Fr. Covert also celebrates Mass at a local nursing home. This past February he helped coordinate the World Day of Prayer for the Sick Mass with Bishop Bradley on Borgess main campus in Kalamazoo and accompanied Bishop Bradley as he visited patients in their rooms.

One of the goals of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan was to better utilize the priests' special gifts and talents and help bring ministry to people where they are and when they need it.

Fr. Johansen ministers at Bronson Battle Creek Hospital, visiting patients and celebrating Mass every Wednesday in the Chapel. He's grateful for the seriousness in which the hospital takes spiritual care.

“We're really moving toward a different model of priestly ministry and pastoral care,” he said. In Battle Creek he has the primary responsibility for the hospital allowing the other priests in the collaborative to dedicate time to other pastoral needs.

“I think this model really is trying to more efficiently



Rev. Harold Potter, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph



Rev. Kevin Covert, St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment



Rev. Rob Johansen, St. Ambrose Parish / Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacy

meet the needs of the faithful and make the best use of priests' talents.”

The challenge comes in the juggling act. Fr. Johansen, for example, also celebrates Mass each weekend for St. Ambrose Parish, Delton and Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey in addition to visiting a variety of nursing homes and helping out at St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek where he resides.

“My assignment at the hospital doesn't allow for in-depth interaction like you might have as a pastor with parishioners,” notes Fr. Johansen. “However, sometimes those 10-15 minutes with the patient and their families, offering prayers and hope, can have a profound effect. People can see us as being the face of the Church — the face of Christ that they may not see otherwise.”

And perhaps the most gratifying outcomes are when Fr. Johansen is able to reconcile people back to the Church and with the sacraments.

“If we're not there with them and their families [in the hospitals] that might not happen,” he says.

On a recent day Fr. Harry Potter was making the rounds visiting patients at Lakeland Hospital, St. Joseph, Mich. The patients he visited on this day ranged in age from 13 to 93. Stopping in, offering a prayer of thanksgiving, assuring them they are being prayed for is a routine he repeats about five days a week. He, too, juggles this with responsibilities at St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph.

“It may sometimes not be as evident the impact you are having but people seem very grateful,” he said.

Perhaps no one was more surprised at his gift for being with the sick then Fr. Potter himself though his hope is that more men will heed the call.

And to those men who may be hearing the call, Fr. Potter urges them to not stay on the fence too long.

“We really need more men interested in doing Christ's work. My advice would be to not be afraid and to be brave. God is calling you.”

Winners announced for Catholic Families Student Contest

The third annual Diocese of Kalamazoo student art contest officially came to a close on February 15. Students, teachers and parents had to patiently await the results until after Easter.

This year's theme was “The Evangelizing Family” focusing on how the family goes out into the world to spread the good news of Christ. Top winners in each category and age division will receive a monetary award up to \$100 made possible by the Knights of Columbus. This year's school with the most entries will also receive a monetary award.

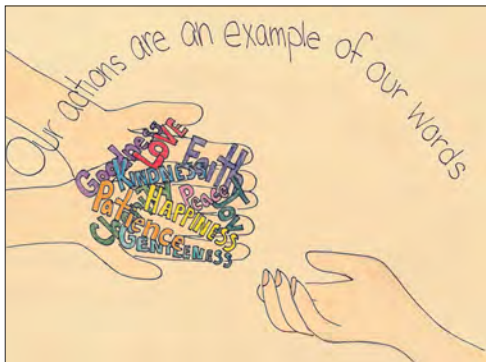
Winners are as follows:

ART

Division 1 – (4th-8th grade)

Diocesan First Place

“Giving Hands” by Ping Smith, 8th grade, St. Monica Catholic School, Kalamazoo



“Giving Hands” by Ping Smith

Nationwide First Place

“Faith, Family, Prayer” by Teresa Crothers, 6th grade, Seton Home School, St. Paul of the Cross Parish, La Mirada, Ca.

Honorable Mention

“Giving Tree” by Megan Bowden (8th grade), St. Monica Catholic School, Kalamazoo

“Invitation out of sin” by Myriam (8th grade), St. Ann Parish, Augusta, Mich.

“The World Evangelizes” by Alanna Kaiser and Julia Warner (4th grade), St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo

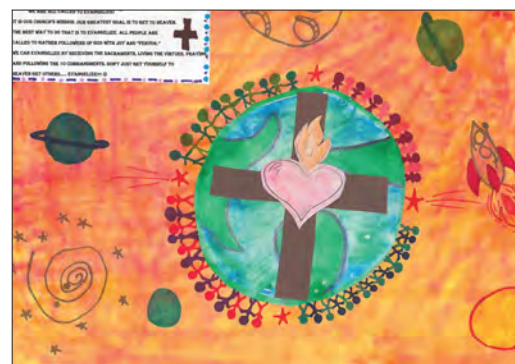
“My family having dinner with Jesus” by Nicolas Aviles (4th grade), Chiquitos Bilingual Montessori School, Utica, Mich.

WRITING

Division 1 – 4th-8th grade
“Evangelizing in the Family” by Alexandra Miller, 6th grade, St. Mary's Catholic School, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



“Giving Tree” by Megan Bowden



“The World Evangelizes” by Alanna Kaiser

Division 2 – 9th-12th grade “Catholicism: Our Greater Joy”

by Julia Amting, 11th grade, St. Mary Parish, Marshall, Mich.

VIDEO

Division 1 – 4th-8th grade – First Place, “Evangelization” by Evan Czuk and Liam Roth, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo

Honorable Mention

“Video Girls” by Abigail Ulbrich & Isabella Hentz, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo

“H&M Videos” by Hannah Hollman & Madison Jones, 4th grade, St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo

SCHOOL WITH THE MOST ENTRIES

Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School, St. Joseph, Mich.

Catholics ready for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

By Sarah DeMott

May 13, 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, where the Virgin Mary visited three young shepherd children, siblings Francisco and Jacinta and their cousin Lucia, once each month from May 13 to October 13, 1917. This came almost a year after the first of three angelic apparitions that appeared to the children and taught them about prayers, adoration and sacrifice. The apparition on Oct. 13 is often called “the day the sun danced”, witnessed by tens of thousands and people as far as 40 miles away reported seeing the sun dance, spin and send out colored rays of light. Throughout her apparitions, her messages to the children was always one focused on prayer, repentance and sacrificing for sins, and that peace would come to the world if people obeyed her requests. Following are some lesser known facts about the popular Marian devotion:

Fatima is one of only three Marian apparitions honored with a feast day

- St. John Paul II survived an assassination attempt on May 13, 1981 and credits the intervention of Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life.
- Jacinta was found to be incorrupt when her tomb was opened 15 years after her death.
- The spot where the “Pope of Fatima”, St. John Paul II, said World Youth Day Mass in Denver in 1993 is at precisely the same latitude (39.630369 degrees north) as the shrine in Fatima.



Jacinta and Francisco Marto are pictured with their cousin Lucia dos Santos (right) in a file photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal. Pope Francis has approved the recognition of a miracle attributed to the intercession of two of the shepherd children, thus paving the way for their canonization.

Pope Francis will visit the Marian shrine at Fatima on May 12-13, during which time he will canonize Francisco and Jacinta. The siblings became two of the youngest Blesseds ever on May 13, 2000 when Pope John Paul II beatified them. The cause for Sr Lucia’s beatification concluded its first phase in Portugal earlier this year and is not being examining at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Pope Francis also declared to be the Jubilee Year of Fatima for the entire anniversary year, Nov. 27, 2016-Nov. 26, 2017. Not sure how to observe this special time of Marian devotion? Consider choosing one or more of Mary’s requests made during her apparitions in Fatima:

On Saturday, May 13th, the Universal Church celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the first of several apparitions of our Blessed Mother to the three shepherd children in Fatima. Over the course of these 100 years, many graces, blessings, and conversions have taken place through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. As we observe this very special anniversary here in our Diocese, all are invited to participate in the 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on Saturday, May 13th, celebrated by Bishop Bradley, and immediately following the Mass to participate in a very special praying of the 20-decade Rosary outdoors (weather permitting) to pray for peace in the world and an increase of vocations here in our Diocese.



- Prayer the Rosary daily
- Offer sacrifice for sinners
- Consecration and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- First five Saturday devotion
- Wear a brown scapular
- Add one of the Fatima prayers to your daily prayer routine

You can also earn plenary indulgence by fulfilling the ordinary conditions: go to Confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and then fulfilling one of three options:

- Make a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke the Mother of God.

PARDON PRAYER

My God, I believe, I adore, I trust, and I love thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not trust, and do not love thee.

THE ANGEL’S PRAYER

With the Blessed Sacrament suspended in the air, the angel at Fatima prostrated himself, and recited the prayer: O most Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – I adore thee profoundly. I offer thee the most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ – present in all the tabernacles of the world – in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

This prayer stresses that most beautiful truth – that the all-powerful, all-loving God is upon the altar at every Catholic Mass. Most Holy Trinity, I adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

SACRIFICE PRAYER

Our Lady taught the children a prayer to be said when they would have something to offer up to God . . . such as some suffering, or an act contrary to what they wanted to do but which was necessary in order to please God. O my Jesus, it is for love of You, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners.

DECADE PRAYER

Our Lady asked that the following prayer be inserted after each decade of the Rosary: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls into Heaven, especially those who are in most need of thy mercy.

- Pray before any statue of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13th of each month from May to October, pray in honor of Mary [Consider making a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Union City-see cover image] and pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.
- If you are unable to get around due to age, illness, disability or other serious cause, you can spiritually unite yourself to the jubilee celebrations on the 13th of each month from May to October and offer intercessory prayers to God through Mary.



Sophie Cavazos, Immaculate Conception School, Three Rivers, places a crown of flowers on a statue of the Blessed Mother during last year's May Crowning. This month parishes and schools around the Diocese will host this special liturgy dedicated to Mary.

Parishes honor Our Lady of Fatima with special celebrations

St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph and SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor – May 13

The Fatima Anniversary Mass and Prayer Procession begins with 8 a.m. Mass at both St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph or St. Bernard Church, Benton Harbor. A prayerful procession from both churches will follow after Mass to St. John Church, Benton Harbor (approx. two miles) to assemble for a short prayer service at 10 a.m., opportunity for a plenary indulgence and a May Crowning. Fellowship and refreshments to follow; transportation will be provided back to cars. All are encouraged to wear blue in honor of Our Lady. Contact: Linda Zienty, lzienty@comcast.net or Ada Green, 269-927-4248. There will also be prayer events on the 13th of each month from May to October and a Mass on Oct. 13, 2017 at St. Bernard Church.

St. Mary Parish, Kalamazoo – May 13-14 and Oct. 6-7

St. Mary parish in Kalamazoo, along with the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, will hold a series of events in honor of the Fatima anniversary. The key events will be an act of Marian consecration at the Masses Saturday and Sunday, May 13th and 14th, special first Saturday meditations throughout the year, and a conference October 6th and 7th, preceding the anniversary of the sixth apparition and the Miracle of the Sun. The Marian Conference will feature both local and national speakers, a Living Rosary vigil, a simple opening dinner and general presentation, as well as breakout talks on topics of interest to the anniversary and other Marian subjects, concluding with a closing Mass and banquet. Registration information will be made public this summer.

St. Peter Parish, Douglas and San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Fennville

A Triduum of Preparation and Centennial Celebration to honor the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will be held from July 19 to 22, 2017. All events held at St. Peter Parish, Douglas. July 19, a multi-lingual rosary will begin at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments. On July 20, confessions will be heard from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by a Holy Hour of Reparation. On July 21, Vespers will begin at 6 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross with an outdoor procession in rosary garden. July 22, Mass at 5 p.m. will be concelebrated by Bishop Paul J. Bradley and Rev. Fabio Garzon, followed by a banquet at 6 p.m. Guest Speaker David Carollo, Executive Director of The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, will speak at 7 p.m.



The Catholic Difference

The importance of Jackie Robinson

By George Weigel

In the history of the modern American civil rights movement, three iconic moments are typically cited.

May 17, 1954: The U.S. Supreme Court hands down its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, declaring segregated — “separate but equal” — public schools unconstitutional.

August 28, 1963: Two hundred thousand Americans participate in the March on Washington and hear Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaim his dream of a country in which his children will be judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin; ten months later, Congress enacts the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

March 3, 1965: Civil rights marchers are assaulted by police tear gas and billy clubs on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama; five months later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signs into law the Voting Rights Act, vindicating the Selma marchers’ cause.

These were noble moments, worth remembering; I certainly cherish my memories of encounters with Bayard Rustin, who organized the March that made Dr. King a national eminence. Yet I also believe there was a fourth iconic moment in America’s journey from a land fouled by segregation to the most racially egalitarian nation on the planet. The man at the center of that fourth dramatic moment was an American legend whose accomplishments should rank as high as anyone’s in the pantheon of civil rights heroes.

On April 15, 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers opened their National League season against the Boston Braves at Ebbets Field. The Dodger first baseman that day was Jackie Robinson: the first African-American to play in a major league game since the infamous “color line” was drawn in the 1880s. At UCLA in 1939-41, Robinson was perhaps the greatest amateur athlete in the country, a star in track-and-field, football, and basketball. After service as an Army officer in World War II, he was playing shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League when he was signed to a minor league contract by “The Mahatma,” Branch Rickey, a cigar-chomping Methodist and the Dodgers’ general manager. Rickey was determined to break the color line, and he deliberately chose Jack Roosevelt Robinson to do so.

And not because Jackie Robinson was a mild-mannered wallflower. But precisely because he was a warrior who, in the words of Leo Durocher, “didn’t just come to play, he come to shove the [expletive deleted] bat...” (I’ll leave the rest of the quote to your imagination). Robinson was to be a warrior with a difference, however: Rickey, an adept psychologist who believed in the essential fairness of the American people, wanted a man with the courage *not* to fight back against the racist slurs, beanballs, and spikings that were sure to come his way — except by giving an unforgettable performance on the field.

Which is what Jackie Robinson, the immortal Number 42, delivered. Grainy black-and-white videos today remind us of a truth the baseball world learned seventy years ago this month: there has never been anything more exciting in baseball, including the majestic home run and the overpowering no-hitter, than 42 stealing a base, especially home. Rather than hollering back at bigots during his rookie year, Robinson beat them with a slashing, attacking style of baseball that helped lift the Dodgers to the National League pennant and brought them within one game of a World Series victory over the lordly Yankees (who didn’t sign an African-American player until Elston Howard in 1955).

It was a performance for the ages. And it changed America.

In this entertainment-saturated twenty-first century, it may be hard to recall the grip baseball had on the national emotions and imagination in 1947. But as the late Columbia University cultural historian Jacques Barzun (an immigrant from France) used to say, whoever wants to understand the heart and mind of America had better understand baseball. On April 14, 1947, that nation-defining pastime still embodied the nation’s original sin. The next day, Jackie Robinson began to accelerate a change in America’s heart and mind. That change made possible *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

On the sapphire jubilee of his first game in the majors, America owes 42 an enormous round of applause and a prayer for the repose of a noble soul.



Program offers tools for healing

By Dr. Phyllis Florian

Director, Trauma Recovery Program

For many of us, our mothers provided the first experiences of “attachment” — a concept theorized by Mary Ainsworth and John Bowlby. “Attachment” in this sense refers to the safe and secure sense of ourselves we feel because of the availability of that parent or caregiver. The bond between child and mother (or primary attachment figure) is complex, with life-long implications. How we understand that first relationship informs our future relationships and ways of looking at our world.

In ideal circumstances, our mothers (or fathers, or other primary caregivers) help us to feel secure in our world, from the time we are infants. When we cry, we are comforted. When we are frightened, we are protected, we feel safe. When we feel happy, our primary caregiver affirms our happiness. When we are worried, we are allowed to find peace. We know we matter, that we are important. We feel secure, and we learn to have confidence in ourselves, and the world in which we live.

This is how mothers (and other primary attachment caregivers) play such an important role in our lives.

For many reasons, this ideal upbringing is not guaranteed. Family life is complicated. Perhaps both parents need to work, and the substitute caregivers are not very loving. Sometimes a parent or caregiver’s own distress — from substance use or mental illness, his or her own complicated upbringing, the sudden loss of a parent or partner, etc. — affects how we are treated. Additionally, our unique perception of life events also plays a role in how we interpret our world, our childhood environment. Often, because of vulnerabilities beyond our choosing, we suffer misunderstanding, abuse, neglect or trauma.

This is how “attachment theory” is related to the Trauma Recovery Program.

One in six adults has experienced some form of trauma or abuse before reaching adulthood. Left unresolved, this history might have a powerful influence on future relationships and outlook on life. The past (painful as it may be) really can leak into the present, and our future. So, while a history of neglect, abuse, or trauma may have happened years ago, the effects continue to undermine our current relationships, our emotional well-being, and our sense of selves as worthwhile and secure.

We may not even realize the consequences of a troubled history. A co-worker, spouse, or loved one may be the first to notice that our emotions or reactions are too intense, or that we are “experts” at avoiding important conversations or decisions, for example. A true friend or loved one may have the courage to bring our attention to how the past is negatively affecting our lives.

The Trauma Recovery Program provides a welcoming and safe environment for people to explore how past hurts have affected present relationships and life situations. This Program is not about re-hashing the past, but moving forward in a better way. Tools for ongoing recovery are an important part of the Trauma Recovery Program.

We don’t all come from perfect childhood experiences. The Trauma Recovery Program invites participants to choose better options for the present and for the future. **Contact: 269-381-8917, ext. 223 for more information, and to register for the next classes.**

Catholic Relief Services annual collection scheduled for May 20 and 21

Parishes in The Diocese of Kalamazoo will participate in the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection the weekend of May 20-21. This collection is separate from the recently concluded and popular Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl program. The collection funds six different Catholic agencies that work to serve some of the most marginalized communities in the world. These agencies provide a broad range of services, including humanitarian aid, pastoral support, disaster relief, resettlement of individuals and families displaced due to war, violence or natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugee children, and legal and advocacy services for immigrants.

Donations are used to:

- Feed the hungry in suffering refugees through the USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)
- Give water to the thirsty in the people of Syria and Niger through the humanitarian work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Offer legal assistance to struggling immigrants through the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).
- Reach out to comfort the isolated workers through the pastoral work of the USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church
- Advocate on behalf of the poor and marginalized through the public policy work of the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development
- Send aid to the victims of natural disasters through the Holy Father’s Relief Fund

To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit
www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/index.cfm



Those struggling with mental health issues need support

By **Debra Hess**

Since 1949, May has been declared Mental Health Month in the United States. Communities and national organizations sponsor events in May to educate us on caring for our own mental health and to raise awareness of the many people who experience mental illness. One in five people suffer from a mental illness in any given year and one in 17 suffers with a serious mental illness. Mental illness can be as debilitating as a physical disability and is the leading cause of long-term disabilities in the U.S. for citizens between the ages of 15 to 44.

Mental illnesses are medical conditions involving alterations in thinking, emotion or behavior and are associated with distress or problems functioning in social, work or family activities. Four broad categories of mental illnesses are: thought disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders.

Mental illness can affect anyone regardless of background, age, gender, income, social status, race, or religion. While mental illness can occur at any age, three-fourths of all mental illness begins by age 24. Mental illnesses are medical conditions, just like diabetes or arthritis. They are not the result of personal weakness or lack of character. Mental illness in children affects the whole family. Symptoms of the illness may be perceived as misbehavior and parents may feel judged. Families and persons with mental illness need support not judgment.

Treatments are effective in helping people successfully manage mental health conditions but nearly two-thirds of all people with diagnosable mental illnesses do not seek treatment. Stigma is a substantial barrier that must be overcome. Stigma is the bias against, distrust, stereotyping or avoidance of persons with mental illness and can be as difficult to cope with as the symptoms of the illness.

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) notes that people with mental illness often feel isolated and the myths and misunderstandings about mental illness may keep some people and their families from participating in their faith community. The NCPD further notes that “at times we unwittingly act and speak in ways that devalue people with mental illness. We must constantly evaluate our attitudes and be vigilant in our efforts to treasure each person as a member of the Body of Christ.”

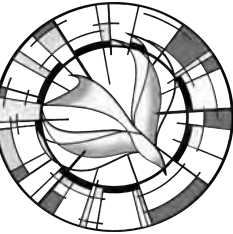
Actions and words that stigmatize can be obvious, such as jokes or comments, or they can be subtle such as avoiding a person. The NCPD suggests that we work to create an accepting community in our parishes where people are as comfortable sharing about their mental illness as they are about any other illness such as a heart condition or cancer. Some specific actions we can take include acknowledging and seeing the person before the illness. For example, use the phrase “a person with mental illness” rather than “a mentally ill person.” When you hear misleading statements about mental illness, or hear someone use humor in a way that demeans, speak up with facts, and kindly point out what is unacceptable.

Supportive relationships are essential in all of our lives. As the NCPD points out “having a supportive relationship with a person with mental illness does not require the expertise of being a psychotherapist just as supporting a friend with cancer does not require being an oncologist.”

For more information on how to welcome and value the people in our families, communities and parishes with mental illness, read “Welcomed and Valued Building Faith Communities of Support and Hope with People with Mental Illness and Their Families” which is posted on the website of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability at www.ncpd.org.

Debra Hess is the CEO of Van Buren Community Mental Health and a member of the Diocesan Commission for Ministry to Persons with Disabilities. The commission, lead by Lisa Irwin, Associate Director, Parish Life&Lay Leadership, seeks to educate, affirm, counsel, advocate, and collaborate relating to issues pertinent to persons with disabilities. For more information on the Commission contact Lisa at 269-903-0177; lrwin@diokzoo.org.

Bishop’s Annual Appeal begins this month



Did you know that the average annual cost to educate a seminarian is \$50,000? Or that last year close to \$90,000 raised over the appeal goal was returned to parishes for local projects? This month the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for 2017 begins with “commitment” weekend planned for May 6th and 7th. An informational packet was mailed to registered parishioners last month with a personalized pledge card and letter from Bishop Bradley. “As we reflect on our call to holiness,” writes Bishop Bradley, “our call to be Jesus’ disciples, our call to change the world, I invite you to reflect on the many ways your participation in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal can help strengthen and make even more vital the good works of the Church in south-west Michigan.”



For more information and to watch this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal Video visit www.diokzoo.org.

Pictured left: Bishop Bradley speaks from the heart during the filming of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal video. Special thanks to Lawrence Productions.

Bishop’s Annual Appeal Goals 2017-2018

Blessed Sacrament, Allegan:	\$51,706	St. Edward, Mendon:	\$19,014
Holy Angels, Sturgis:	\$51,669	St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs:	\$9,311
Holy Family, Decatur:	\$15,913	St. Jerome, Battle Creek:	\$24,347
Holy Maternity, Dowagiac:	\$28,403	St. John Bosco, Mattawan:	\$55,591
Immaculate Conception, Hartford:	\$23,954	St. John, Albion:	\$48,687
Immaculate Conception, Three Rivers:	\$49,523	St. Joseph, Battle Creek:	\$145,656
Our Lady of Fatima, Union City:	\$12,552	St. Joseph, Kalamazoo:	\$115,841
Our Lady of Great Oak, Lacey:	\$6,140	St. Joseph, St. Joseph:	\$194,169
Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg:	\$75,476	St. Joseph, Watervliet:	\$53,413
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman:	\$27,689	St. Joseph, White Pigeon:	\$21,090
Sacred Heart, Bangor:	\$19,893	St. Jude, Gobles:	\$17,725
Sacred Heart, Silver Creek:	\$29,513	St. Margaret, Otsego:	\$70,831
Sacred Heart, Watson:	\$7,551	St. Margaret/Mary, Marcellus:	\$10,946
San Felipe de Jesus, Pearl:	\$7,290	St. Mark, Niles:	\$34,503
SS Cyril & Methodius, Gun Lake:	\$38,908	St. Martin, Vicksburg:	\$66,213
SS John & Bernard, Benton Harbor:	\$141,777	St. Mary of the Lake, New Buffalo:	\$53,382
St. Agnes, Sawyer:	\$26,751	St. Mary, Bronson:	\$61,500
St. Ambrose, Delton:	\$13,979	St. Mary, Kalamazoo:	\$46,090
St. Ambrose, Parchment:	\$61,925	St. Mary, Marshall:	\$84,054
St. Ann, Cassopolis:	\$17,520	St. Mary, New Salem:	\$51,084
St. Ann, Gull Lake:	\$93,229	St. Mary, Niles:	\$70,426
St. Anthony, Buchanan:	\$24,809	St. Mary, Paw Paw:	\$63,541
St. Augustine, Kalamazoo:	\$134,697	St. Mary, Three Oaks:	\$26,138
St. Barbara, Colon:	\$9,202	St. Monica, Kalamazoo:	\$160,794
St. Basil, South Haven:	\$96,146	St. Peter, Douglas:	\$58,313
St. Catherine of Siena, Portage:	\$268,989	St. Philip, Battle Creek:	\$154,840
St. Charles, Coldwater:	\$56,249	St. Rose of Lima, Hastings:	\$62,339
St. Clare, Centreville:	\$8,784	St. Stanislaus, Hillards:	\$31,439
St. Cyril, Nashville:	\$9,011	St. Therese, Wayland:	\$65,162
		St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo:	\$135,831
		Total 2017 Goals	\$3,421,517



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL 1120

2017 Memorial Golf Tournament

St. Johns and St. Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor

Please join us and participate in this charity event.

The entry fee is \$75/Golfer which includes:

- 18 Holes of golf
- w/electric cart
- steak dinner with all the trimmings
- and opportunity to win \$10,000 CASH or NEW \$20,000 CAR in our Hole-In-One contests along with many raffle prizes...

June 10, 2017

GOLF OUTING

Blossom Trails Golf Club

Proceeds help support local Catholic Programs including Catholic Community Center in Benton Harbor.

Register online and pay before June 3rd to avoid a late fee of \$25/golfer.

<http://www.planmygolfevent.com/30401-KofC-GOLF-BH-SJ>

You can make your payment online using a major credit card.

For more information Contact Tom Hanley at (269)-930-0701 or Mike Piraino (269) 861-1262 if you have any questions.

Descanse en Paz Angelita Rodriguez, 1932-2017

Maria de los Angeles Rodriguez, Angelita como todos la conocíamos, ya está gozando de la presencia de Dios a quien ella tanto amo y en quien siempre confió. Murió el pasado sábado 15 de abril del 2017. Angelita fue una persona de un gran corazón, muy comprometida y bondadosa no solo con su familia sino también con la Iglesia y con toda la comunidad hispana. Siempre tenía una sonrisa y su casa abierta para todos. Por más de treinta y cinco años, junto a su esposo, el Diácono Maximino, sirvió a la comunidad de San Felipe de Jesus y también perteneció al Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo. Angelita y el Diácono, fueron una pareja modelo que se querían y apoyaban mutuamente. Angelita fue una de las primeras esposas hispanas de la diócesis que dieron el “Si” para que su esposo sirviera a la Iglesia de Kalamazoo como Diácono Permanente.



De parte del Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano, de toda la comunidad hispana y de parte de la Diócesis de Kalamazoo, les damos nuestro más sincero pésame al Diácono Maximino, a sus hijos, nietos, bisnietos, hermanos a y todo el resto de su familia. Y agradecemos el valioso testimonio de vida de Angelita, que nos anima como personas y como comunidad de fe a caminar con amor y alegría sirviendo a quienes más nos necesiten. Que su presencia espiritual y su imagen sonriente y dulce los colme de fortaleza y paz en estos momentos de dolor por su despedida.

Que Angelita y su hermana Ignacia Martínez, quien murió horas después, descansen en la paz del Señor.



La Conferencia anual de Migrant Resource Council será el 17 de mayo del 2017 de 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

en el edificio de Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. Lema de la conferencia: “Sembrando Semillas – Cultivando Colaboraciones”. Costo antes del 5 de mayo \$20, después de esta fecha \$25 y para los estudiantes son \$10. Sería muy bueno que todas las personas que participan en el ministerio migrante o de una u otra manera se relacionan con los campesinos, participen en esta conferencia en donde se obtiene información muy importante. Para obtener una registración o más información contacte a Bonnie Knowlton a bknowlton@vbisd.org o llame al teléfono 269-539-5189.

The annual pre-season conference of Migrant Resource Council will take place on May 17, 2017 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, MI 49064. The theme for the conference is “Planting Seeds – Cultivating Partnerships.” Cost of the conference is \$20 before May 5th, \$25 after May 5th and cost for students is \$10. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who participate in migrant ministry or for those who in one way or another have contact with the migrant farmworkers. There is a lot of important information provided in this conference. To obtain more information or for registration, the contact person is Bonnie Knowlton, bknowlton@vbisd.org or phone 269-539-5189.

Calendario/Calendar

Mayo/May

Mayo — Temporada del Ministerio Migrante Diocesano (Abril a Noviembre). Visitas a los campos migrantes.

6 (Sábado) — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Instituto San Agustín – Formación Continua para los Graduados.

13 (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 matrimonial. Lugar: Immaculate Conception Parish, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, MI.

17 (Miércoles) — 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. Conferencia Anual de Migrant Resource Council VBISD Conference Center, 490 Paw Paw St., Lawrence, MI

20 (Sábado) — 10 a.m.-12m. Reunión del Comité Diocesano de Pastoral Hispana, Centro Pastoral Diocesano, Kalamazoo.

20 (Sábado) — 10 a.m.-4pm. Movimiento de Jornadas Juveniles – Pre-Jornada, “Atrevete a Vivir”. Lugar: Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, MI 49057.

26 – 29 — Movimiento de Jornadas Juveniles – Jornada, “Atrevete a Vivir”. Lugar: St. Joseph Parish, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. 29 (Lunes) — Cerradas las oficinas del Centro Pastoral Diocesano por Día de Memorial.

“Viviendo Como Pueblo de Dios en Tiempos Difíciles”

El pasado 22 de marzo el Comité Administrativo de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos emitió una reflexión pastoral titulada “Viviendo Como Pueblo de Dios en Tiempos Difíciles”. En esta declaración, los obispos exhortan a cada uno de nosotros a hacer lo posible para acompañar a los migrantes y los refugiados que buscan una vida mejor en los Estados Unidos.

Parte de la reflexión:

“La palabra de Dios está verdaderamente viva hoy. “Cuando un extranjero resida contigo en tu tierra, no lo maltratarás. Él será para ustedes como uno de sus compatriotas y lo amarás como a ti mismo, porque también ustedes fueron extranjeros en Egipto”(Lv. 19:33-34).

Vivir como pueblo de Dios es vivir en la esperanza de la resurrección. Vivir en Cristo es recurrir al amor sin límites de Jesús que nos fortifica contra la tentación del miedo. Oren para que nuestra participación en el debate sobre temas de inmigración y refugiados pueda traer paz y consuelo a los más afectados por cambios actuales y propuestos en la política nacional.

No debemos de perder de vista el hecho de que detrás de cada política está la historia de una persona en busca de una vida mejor. Pueden ser una familia inmigrante o refugiados haciendo sacrificios para que sus hijos tengan un mejor futuro. Como pastores de una Iglesia peregrina, no nos cansaremos de decirle a las familias

que tienen el valor de salir desde su desesperación hacia el camino de la esperanza: “Estamos con ustedes”. También puede tratarse de una familia que busca seguridad debido a una creciente amenaza de violencia extremista. Es necesario proteger a los Estados Unidos de una manera que no nos haga perder nuestra humanidad.” Pueden ir a www.usccb.org/news/2017/17-054.cfm para leer la reflexión completa.

Recomendaciones para que estén preparados:

Si un funcionario de ICE (*Immigration and Customs Enforcement*) viene a su domicilio, la persona puede rehusar a abrir la puerta hasta que el funcionario le presente una orden judicial en donde aparezca su nombre y dirección. La persona puede pedirle al funcionario que deslice la orden judicial por debajo de la puerta.

Tiene el derecho a permanecer en silencio y no tiene que contestar las preguntas del funcionario.

Puede exigir hablar con su abogado y puede rehusar a firmar cualquier documento hasta que hayan hablado con su abogado.

No mienta ni proporcione nombres o documentos falsos a agentes del gobierno o a empleadores.

Organice sus documentos y contactos. Mantenga todos sus documentos de identificación, documentos relacionados con inmigración, cortes de apelación, u otra documentación, accesible. Haga copias de estos documentos y asegúrese que su

familia o personas de su confianza tengan acceso a ellos. Memorice o lleve con usted el número de contacto de una persona de confianza, o su representante legal. Asegúrese que sus niños tengan el número de estos mismos contactos en caso de ser necesario.

Regístrese con su consulado.

Regístrese y atienda su parroquia u otras comunidades religiosas más cercana. De ser posible considere participar en un grupo de solidaridad y apoyo.

Prepare a su familia. Siempre es bueno tener un plan de familia en caso de que un miembro sea detenido. Por ejemplo, decida quien en su familia o amigos se hará cargo de los niños en una situación de emergencia; mantenga listos los pasaportes de sus hijos; si es posible, trate de obtener la doble nacionalidad para sus hijos; también registre a sus hijos con el consulado de su país; Si es posible, haga una Carta Poder notariada (se vence después de 6 meses).

Haga una cadena entre familia y amigos. Decida quien en su círculo familiar o de amigos será llamado en caso de ser detenido.

Manténganse informado. Estas son algunas de las organizaciones con información por Internet: Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, www.michiganimmigrant.org; USCCB: Justice for Immigrants: www.justiceforimmigrants.org; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC): <https://cliniclegal.org/>; Fuente: www.usccb.org, www.justiceforimmigrants.org y www.michiganimmigrant.org.

Movimiento de Jornadas Juveniles

Invita: Jóvenes de JORNADAS de la Iglesia de Holy Angels, Sturgis

Alguna vez te has preguntado: ¿Qué onda con mi vida? ¿Te has sentido sol@, y no sabes a dónde ir? ¿Quieres divertirte con jóvenes como tú? ¿Tienes ganas de conocer más a DIOS? ¿Quieres encontrar sentido a tu VIDA? ¿Te animas a tomar el reto...? ¡Entonces la Pre-jornada y la Jornada son para ti! Están invitados jóvenes entre 18 a 35 años de edad, solter@s!

Pre-Jornada: Sábado, Mayo 20, 2017, en la Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción, 63559 60th Avenue, Hartford, Michigan, 49057, de 10 am – 4 pm.

Jornada, Mayo 26-29, 2017 (Memorial Weekend) en St. Joseph Catholic Church, 936 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001. Costo: \$50 dólares.

Te invitamos a que vivas la mejor experiencia de tu vida.

¡Anímate, VEN Y VIVE TU JORNADA!

Más información: Jesus Hernández 269-689-0568; Valeria García 269-359-5340; Mario Nieves 269-625-1060; Angie Ramírez 269-625-4545.

Ministerio con los Campesinos Migrantes

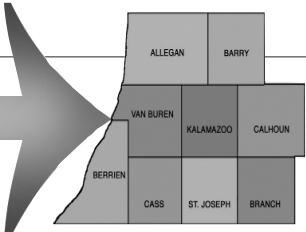
La Diócesis de Kalamazoo tendrá la reunión para comenzar el ministerio con los campesinos el **miércoles 7 de junio de 6:00-8:00p.m. en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano, 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.** La reunión es para todos los voluntarios que ayudarán con el ministerio y para aquellos que quieran ser voluntarios nuevos. En ese día, proporcionaremos material de nuevos y contestaremos a las preguntas que tenga sobre el Ministerio Migrante. También es una excelente oportunidad para conocer a otros voluntarios. Si desea ser voluntario o si tiene alguna pregunta, llame al 269-903-0197.

Ministry to the Migrant Farmworkers

The Diocese of Kalamazoo will host their beginning of the season meeting on **Wednesday, June 7 from 6:00 – 8:00p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 215 N. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.** This meeting is for all the volunteers that will be helping with the ministry to the migrant farmworkers and for those who wish to volunteer for the first time. On that day we will provide some resource material, answer any questions that you may have regarding Migrant Ministry and it is also an opportunity to meet other volunteers. If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, please call 269-903-0197.

Here & There

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



- BISHOP BRADLEY’S CALENDAR**
- May 7, 10 a.m. – Mass and Blessing of the Renovated Chapel – St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek
- May 13, 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Welcome with Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI) participants – Transformations, Kalamazoo
- May 23, 9 a.m. – Holy Family Radio Pledge Drive – Newman’s Bookshoppe, Kalamazoo
- May 23, 2 p.m. – Blessing of “Gianna’s Gift” – Holy Family Healthcare, Hartford
- May 24, Noon- Baccalaureate Mass – St. Philip, Battle Creek
- May 31, 7 p.m. – Hackett Catholic Prep Baccalaureate Mass – St. Augustine Cathedral
- June 2, 9 a.m. – Lake Michigan Catholic High School Baccalaureate Mass – St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph
- June 3, 9 p.m. – Pentecost Vigil Mass in Spanish – St. Augustine Cathedral
- Bishop Bradley’s Confirmation Schedule**
- May 6, 4 p.m. – SS John and Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor
- May 7, 2:30 p.m. – St. John Bosco Parish, Mattawan
- May 12, 5 p.m. – Collaborative – at St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan with Holy Family, Decatur; Holy Maternity of Mary, Dowagiac, Sacred Heart of Mary, Silver Creek; and St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs Parishes
- May 13, 5 p.m. – St. Basil Parish, South Haven
- May 14, 9 a.m. – St. Jude Parish, Gobles
- May 14, 3 p.m. – St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings
- May 21, 11:30 a.m. – St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg
- May 21, 4 p.m. – St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Portage
- May 22, 6:30 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish, Battle Creek
- May 30, 6:30 p.m. – St. Mary Parish, Niles
- June 3, 5:30 p.m. – St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo
- June 4, 11:30 a.m. – St. Augustine Cathedral
- June 10, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. – Holy Angels Parish, Sturgis
- June 11, 10:30 a.m. – St. Mary Parish, Paw Paw
- June 25, 10:30 a.m. – St. Joseph Parish, White Pigeon

- Activities around the diocese**
- May 11: Good News and Brews,** 7-9 p.m., Arcadia Brewing Company. All young adults are invited to enjoy dynamic speakers, engaging topics and fellowship. Contact: Tim McNamara, tmcnamara@diokzoo.org
- May 13: Jazz Night at Hackett Catholic Prep,** 7-10 p.m., Fundraiser for HCP band students. Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com/event/2938899.
- May 13: 5th Annual Blessing of Bikes and Classic Cars,** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan. Day includes music, games, silent auction, food and more. Cost is \$5; under 10 free. Visit [Facebook.com/alleganblessing](https://www.facebook.com/alleganblessing) for more information
- May 20: Purse Bingo,** St. Jerome Parish, Battle Creek. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., bingo starts at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$12/person; Call: 269-968-2218
- May 20: Listening Session for People with Disabilities,** their families and caregivers, 3:30 p.m. St. Mary School Gym, Paw Paw. Contact: Lisa Irwin, lirwin@diokzoo.org, 269-903-0177
- May 20-21: Fr. Joe McCormick’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.** Reception following May 20th 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg and a brunch reception following May 21st 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Ann, Cassopolis.
- June 10: Knights of Columbus Memorial Golf Outing,** Blossom Trails Golf Club, Benton Harbor. Entry fee is \$75/golfer, includes 18 holes of golf w/ cart, steak dinner and raffle prizes. Register and pay before June 3 to avoid \$25 fee. Check-in at 7 a.m., opening prayer at 7:45 a.m. Sponsorships also available. Contact: Tom Hanley, 269-930-0701, tom.hanley@vailrubber.com.
- June 24: Ordination to the Priesthood,** 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral. Dcn. Jeffrey Hanley and Maximilian Nightingale will be ordained to the priesthood.
- SAVE THE DATE:** Annual New Evangelization Convocation will be held October 13-14 at Hackett Catholic Prep.



May declared “Leave a Legacy” Month by Governor Snyder

Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed May, 2017 as “Leave a Legacy” month for the State of Michigan. In the official “Certificate of Proclamation” the Governor cites that only 43 percent of Michigan residents have a will and only 21 percent of those who do have a will include a bequest to charity. During this month please consider making a legacy gift to your parish, the diocese or charity of your choice. If you’re interested in learning more about a bequest to the Diocese please contact: Annette Brennan, 269-903-0145; abrennan@diokzoo.org.

“Waiting in Joyful Hope”

Catholic Family Regional Meeting

The National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers Region VI will hold a conference on May 22-24 at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat & Conference Center in Detroit. The theme will be “Family at the Crossroads: Ministering with Hope and Joy during a Time of Diversity and Change.” See the promotional flyer for speaker information, a schedule and registration forms.

Catholic Women’s group explores planting theme for June meeting

“Planting the Seeds of Faith: Today and Tomorrow — A day of exploring, sharing, and planting ideas. What might you think about and develop for the future? The Kalamazoo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (KDCCW) has planned a day with speakers, prayer, Mass, Newman’s Bookshoppe, and more. Grow in your knowledge of the history of our diocese presented by Rev. Bob Creagan. Pope Francis has designated 2017 the Year of Our Lady of Fatima. Information about the 100th Anniversary of Fatima will be presented by KDCCW board members. The event will take place Wednesday, June 21, at St. Joseph Parish, 220 Church St, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Check in and light refreshments: 8:15-9:00am; Concludes: approx. 3:30pm. Cost: \$20, includes lunch. Everyone is welcome and grants are available. Registration: by June 14, with Sue Annis, (269) 217-3678, sanis58@aol.com

Holy Family Radio Pledge Drive

Holy Family Radio’s Spring Pledge Drive will be May 23-26. The goal is \$150,000. The pledge drive will be hosted live at Newman’s Bookshoppe in Kalamazoo on May 23 and May 25. Bishop Bradley will kick-off the drive live from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 23. Other local featured guests will include several parishes and diocesan staff. For more information or to pledge, go to holyfamilyradio.net.



Commission seeks input

The Diocesan Commission for Ministry to Persons with Disabilities will hold a gathering for persons with disabilities, their families and caregivers on Saturday, May 20th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary Elementary School, 508 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw. Participants will be encouraged to share the experiences, challenges and joys of their faith life in an informal setting. Members of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry to Persons with Disabilities hold listening sessions throughout the diocese throughout the year to help understand the needs of the community. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are not mandatory but appreciated and please note any accommodations needed. Contact: Lisa Irwin, 269-903-0177; lirwin@diokzoo.org.

Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish

The Diocese of Kalamazoo continues with the Trauma Recovery Program in Spanish. If you know someone who has suffered any type of trauma (physical, sexual, neglect, etc.) either in the past or present, please refer them for help to Lisette Mira-Amaya 269-929-7084 or Fanny Tabares 269-903-0209. It is necessary to make an appointment as soon as possible, before the program begins, with the counselor Lisette.

Making a Report of Sexual Misconduct Number

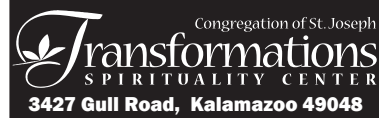
A report of sexual misconduct may be initiated at the Diocese of Kalamazoo’s Sexual Misconduct Question and **Reporting Line: 877-802-0115**. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding sexual misconduct will be returned, usually within one hour. This 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.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults/VIRTUS Training Sessions

All volunteers are required to complete a “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” course. Following are upcoming training sessions. Please register online at www.diokzoo.org. For questions or to schedule a session in your parish or school contact Marina Hentz, 269-903-0171; mhentz@diokzoo.org.

Wednesday, May 10; 5:30 p.m. St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 150 Taylor St., Coldwater, MI This session will be held in the Hospitality Room in the Activities building located at 71 Harrison St.

Tuesday, May 16; 6:30 p.m. St. Bernard Catholic Church , 555 E. Delaware Ave., Benton Harbor This session will be held in the Parish Center. Contact: Kathy Kissane, 269-363-1381



The Best Time of Our Lives Tuesday evenings; 6:30-8:30pm or Wednesday mornings; 9:30-11:30am Led by Marcella Clancy, CSJ

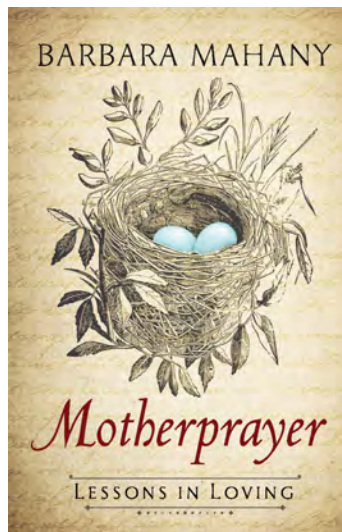
- Tues May 9 or Wed May 10 - Aging with Grace-choose 1
- Tues June 13 or Wed June 14 - The Story of My Life-choose 1
- Tues July 11 or Wed July 12 - Giving & Receiving-choose 1

This series invites us to claim the **blessings** and **challenges** of aging. It will call us to own the gift of transitioning from “doing” less to “being” more, and discover greater intimacy with God through both the suffering and the joy of living.

Come to recognize and mine the treasure that only you can share, for this can be the best time of our lives!

Each segment is priced independently, can be taken individually, and will be offered at two times on the 2nd week of the months of May, June and July.

More info & register at **TransformationsCenter.org** 269-381-6290 x327



Journalist recounts her “crash course in loving” in new book *Motherprayer*

By Kelly Hughes

Writer Barbara Mahany’s ability to capture the beauty of small moments, honed as a reporter and columnist for the Chicago Tribune, captivated readers of her first book, *Slowing Time*. Now, she turns her attention to the sacred mysteries of mothering in *Motherprayer: Lessons in Loving* (Abingdon Press, \$18.99 hardcover), with a hope to apply these lessons to the world beyond our own familial bubbles.

For Mahany, who has two sons, “*Motherprayer*” captures the essence of what mothers do: a way of loving that becomes prayer beyond words. “Mothering was my crash course in love,” she says, teaching her how to “love in the way we yearn to be loved: Without end. Without question. Without giving in to exhaustion. Love with a big and boundless heart. With eyes and ears wide open. Love even when it’s not so easy.”

“Three threads of me — mother, journalist, once and always a nurse — combined in ways I’d not anticipated,” Mahany says. As she kept watch “on the species I birthed,” she kept field notes, gathered here in the book. The arc begins with her first pregnancy and continues on to the present day, written in real time: on the eve of first grade; the first night her firstborn drove off alone in the family car; while grieving a daughter lost to miscarriage; after a crushing baseball loss that broke a second-grader’s heart. These and other moments are extracted from motherhood “to ask the toughest questions, lay bare essential truths, and seize whatever shards of illumination I might have stumbled upon.”

Mahany is Catholic and her husband is Jewish, so her family encounters God in the rituals and idioms of two faith traditions. She writes about this weaving together of traditions in the faith life of her family. Since motherprayer can at times be expressed through food, readers will find recipes “From the Cookery Files” throughout the book, such as “Birthday Mac and Cheese (Or for Any Day When Comfort Is All You Need),” “Height-of-Summer Peach Shortcake,” and “Welcome-Home Brisket.”

“Mothering a child is the most sacred calling of my life,” Mahany writes. “It begs all I am and all I’ve got, and then some. Without prayer — the inside line to angels, saints, and Holy God — I’d not have made it, not even close, to labor and delivery. Nor a single day thereafter.”



Diocesan Office of Schools and school staff present at NCEA

Five representatives of the schools throughout our diocese traveled to St. Louis to present at the 2017 National Catholic Educator's Conference. Their presentation was titled, “Bring Catholic Identity to all Content Areas Session Level.” Presenters included (pictured L to R) Camille DeLano, 7th/8th grade teacher, St. Stanislaus School, Dorr; Jordon Beery, 5th grade teacher, St. Monica School, Kalamazoo; Theresa Nugent, Assistant Superintendent, Diocese of Kalamazoo; Charles Heidelberg, Assistant Principal, Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo; and Shannon Saxton-Murphy, Principal, St. Stanislaus School, Dorr. Their presentation focused on how the Diocese of Kalamazoo developed a science curriculum and infused its K-12 theology curriculum using the Understanding by Design curriculum process.

Hackett wins STAR Award for Youth Volunteer work

In 2016, the students at Hackett Catholic Prep (HCP) volunteered at more than 25 organizations for a total of 9,171 hours. Examples of service projects included spring cleaning, raking, organizing and other services at churches, cemeteries and Nazareth; helping organize and serve food at places like the Gospel Mission, Ministry with Community and Loaves and Fishes; tutored and organized at Peace House; Alternative Spring Break; make bereavement gowns for families dealing with the death of a baby and surgery buddies to help children handle surgeries at Bronson; and many more. In recognition of this commitment to the community, the HCP student body was awarded the Youth Volunteer Group STAR Award at this year’s awards ceremony, which honors top volunteers and organizations around the greater-Kalamazoo area in 11 different categories.



SCOUT MASS

The annual Diocesan Scout Mass with Bishop Bradley was celebrated April 23 at St. Augustine Cathedral. The Mass honors scouts and leaders who have earned religious patches throughout the year. This year’s Mass was attended by more than 150 Catholic scouts and leaders and 50 patches and medals were awarded, including the “God Is Love”, “The Family of God”, and “I Live My Faith” girl scout medals and the “Light of Christ”, “Parvuli Dei”, “Ad Altare Dei”, “Pope Pius XII” and “Pillars of Faith-Duty to God” boy scout medals and emblems, as well as several adult awards and troop awards, like the “Bishop Donovan Quality Troop Award”. Also included were one girl scout Gold Award and four boy scout Eagle Scouts, the top achievement for scouts.



Protect Young Eyes event held in Douglas

St. Peter Parish, Douglas held an informational meeting led by Chris McKenna, founder of Protect Young Eyes, a ministry helping equip parents, teachers and other leaders with the tools necessary to keep youth safe while they use the internet. Discussion included the realities of easy access to internet and smart phones and how to best help children and teens reap the benefits of these technologies while avoiding the potential dangers. For more information, visit protectyouneyes.com.

Future meetings will be held: May 9, 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, Three Rivers; May 15, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Elementary, Battle Creek; and May 17, 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg

