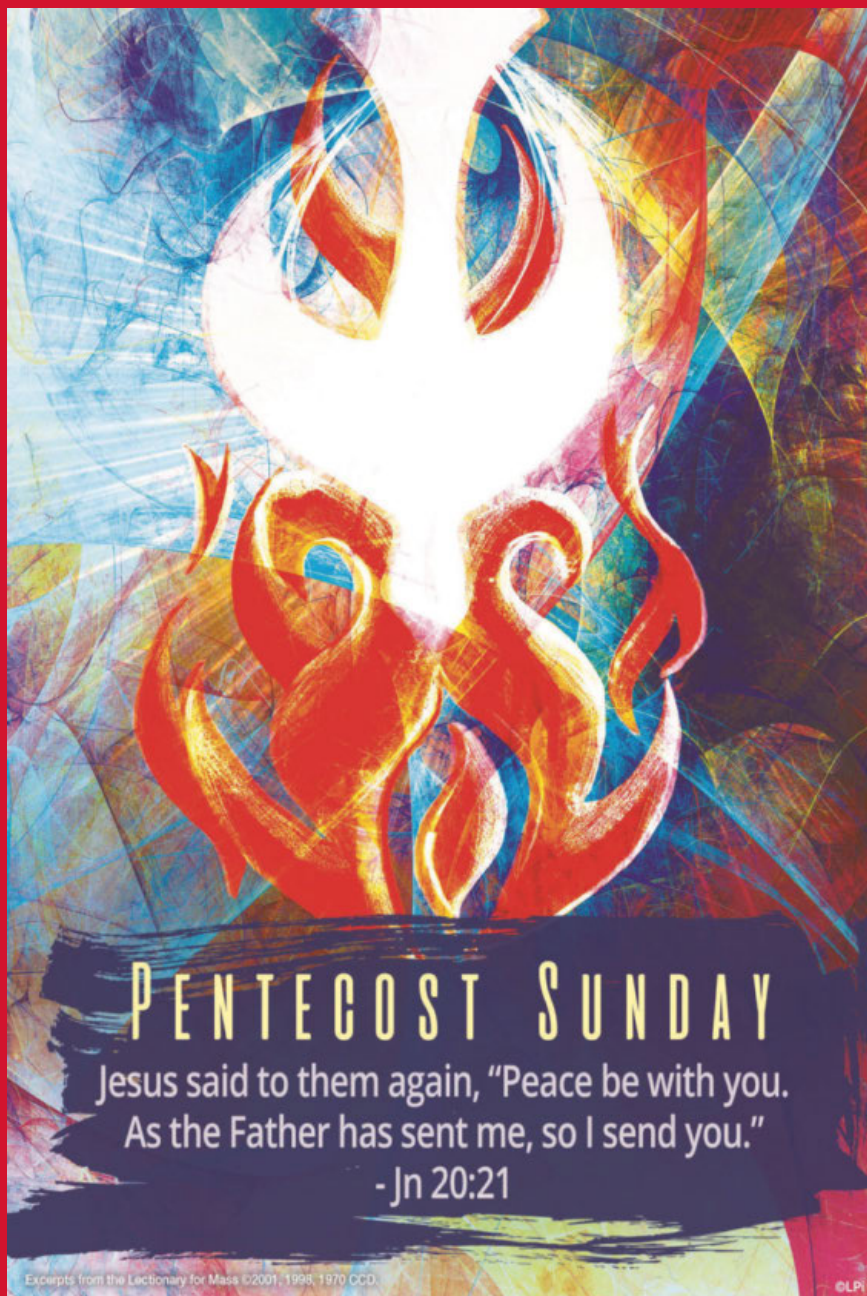




St. Joseph Catholic Church

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1790 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302 ✚ 319-377-4869 ✚ stjoesmarion.org



May 28, 2023

Rev. David O'Connor, Pastor
d.oconnor@dbqarch.org

Deacon Dennis Ternes
d.ternes@dbqarch.org

Deacon Ken Bauer
k.bauer@dbqarch.org

Deacon Jeff Volker, Pastoral Minister
j.volker@dbqarch.org

Bridget Becker, Director of Adult FF
b.becker@dbqarch.org

Doug Brock, Business Manager
d.brock@dbqarch.org

Patty Kelly, Director of Liturgy & Music
p.kelly@dbqarch.org

Julie Quandt, Parish Secretary
j.quandt@dbqarch.org

Nancy Roush, Business & Ministry Asst.
n.roush@dbqarch.org

JoAnn Starr, YFF Coordinator
j.starr1@dbqarch.org

Kristen Perreault, Adolescent FF Coordinator
dbq126ff6@dbqarch.org

Casey Kettmann, Principal
ckettmann@sjcsmarion.org

Peggy Brady, School Secretary
pbrady@sjcsmarion.org

Amy Diercks and Mallory Dudley
Childcare Co-Directors
childcaredirector@sjcsmarion.org

Kevin Burmeister, Director of Maintenance
kburmeister@sjcsmarion.org

Weekend Mass: Saturday, 4:00 PM
Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Weekday Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
7:30 AM

Adoration: Monday, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

St. Joseph Parish Office 319-377-4869
1790 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302

Youth Faith Formation 319-377-8402
1430 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302

St. Joseph Catholic School 319-377-6348
1430 14th Street, Marion, IA 52302

New to the Parish: Welcome! Please call the office to make an appointment to register at 319-377-4869.

Prayer Chain: Contact Deacon Jeff Volker at 319-377-4869 or j.volker@dbqarch.org.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Call the office and make an appointment with the priest or deacon.

Advanced Care Planning Consultants: Learn about church teachings on health issues and find help with documents pertaining to durable power of attorney for Health care and health care decision directives.

Parish contacts:

Theresa Alt 319-447-1132 or alt.theresa@yahoo.com

Jean Randolph 319-377-0497 or jmr926722@mchsi.com

Deacon Dennis Ternes 319-377-4869 or d.ternes@dbqarch.org

Deacon Ken Bauer 319-377-4869 or k.bauer@dbqarch.org

Infant Baptism: If you wish to have your infant child/children baptized at St. Joseph, please contact Deacon Dennis at: d.ternes@dbqarch.org or 319-377-4869 to discuss baptism preparation for the parents prior to scheduling of the baptism. *The next baptism prep session will be Sat. July 8th, 2023.*

Parish Disability Advocate: Contact Amanda Weaver at 319-432-9347 or aweaver222@gmail.com

Follow us:



**Sunday Envelope Giving
Week of May 21, 2023 - Week 47**

Budgeted Sunday Envelope Needs	\$20,192
Year-to-date budget	\$949,038
Collected last weekend	\$23,045
Actual Year-to-date envelope income	\$949,350
Over/(Under) Budget	\$311
Unrestricted Gifts and Offertory	\$321,767
Budgeted Gifts and Offertory	\$198,846
Over / (Under) budget	\$122,941
Bricks and Mortar Envelopes	\$42,997
Bricks and Mortar budget	\$45,192
Over/(Under) Budget	(\$2,195)
Social Concerns 5% of Envelopes	\$1,152

**May 29 – June 4, 2023
Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions**

Monday, May 29—Memorial Day
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
(No Adoration)

Tuesday, May 30

7:30 AM Mass † Rita Jansen
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Wednesday, May 31

7:30 AM Mass † Clarence, Mike & Stephen Casey

(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

9:45 AM Scripture Study - St. Joseph Room

2:00 PM Pietra Class

7:00 PM Men of Action - St. Joseph Room

Thursday, June 1

6:00 AM Men of Action - Church Hall

7:30 AM Mass † Deceased members of the Schuttloffel Family

(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Friday, June 2

7:30 AM Mass † Mary Mowrer
(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Saturday, June 3

3:00 PM Reconciliation

4:00 PM Mass † Mark & Brian Ackerman

(Also broadcasted live at: stjoesmarion.org)

Sunday, June 4

8:00 AM Mass † For The People

10:30AM Mass † Mike Courtney

Pray the Rosary

The Knights of Columbus are going to pray the Rosary at St. Joseph Church on **Tuesday, June 6th** at 7:00 PM. All St. Joseph members are invited to pray with us. You do not have to be a Knight to participate. All are welcome.

Ministry Schedule	Saturday, June 3, 4:00 PM	Sunday, June 4, 8:00 AM	Sunday, June 4, 10:30 AM
Sacristan	Theresa Alt	Sandra Alt	Julie Schmitt
Lector	Lisa Volker	Mark Oehler	Jerome Nachazel
Altar Servers	Avery Lewis Genevieve Sullivan Ella Westhoff	Ella Houlsworth Angela Myers Ryan Myers	Blaise Pacha Cooper Pacha Noah Gonzalez
Video Ministry	Peyton Stoller	n/a	n/a
Ambassadors	David Bowen Douglas Brock David Bengford Timothy O'Brien	Michael Alt John Dolphin Mark Barnd Scott Irlbeck	Tim Crumley Theresa Crumley Brad Duggan Stephen Wright
Eucharistic Ministers	Rachel Dunnwald Jeffrey Schussler 3 Open	Jeffrey Alt Renee Wiebel Linda Charlton 2 Open	Linda Randklev Lyle Ridenour Bob Blocklinger 2 Open
Master of Ceremonies	1 Open	Liam Perreault	Timothy DeWees
Door Greeters	Marjorie Jensen Joyce Wright 2 Open	Gunnar Black Marcia Black Kelly Zimmerman Dorie Kelchen	Gary Raymond Julie Raymond Brian Reynolds 1 Open
Music Ministry	Patty Kelly Jeff Volker	Patty Kelly Grace Richards Kylie Wassmer	Jacob Weaver Kimberly Menke

Please volunteer for open ministry opportunities through Ministry Scheduler Pro or by calling Nancy Roush in the parish office.



Timothy Ray Price, father of Shawn (Gretchen) Price; **Paul Pospisil**, brother of Ken (Barb) Pospisil; and **Linda Schimberg**

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died, especially **Gary Copper**; **Kenneth Melhus**, brother in law of Sheri (Howard) Schiffer; **Bette Offerman**, mother of Connie (Mike) Vasey, grandmother of Amanda & Clarie, step-mother of Pat (Jeff) Sperry, step-grandmother of Justin & Ashley; **Mary O'Neill**; **Gary Pantenburg**, father of Shelia (Kyle) Cobb;

Save the Date for **Totus Tuus!**
June 18-23 at St. Pius X

This summer, St Joseph Parish will join with St Pius X to provide a week of faith, fun, and friendship to inspire young people to get to know Jesus and His Church through mother Mary, led by college students and seminarians from throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Younger students will hear inspiring talks, play games, have snacks, and experience daily Mass. Older students will participate in deep discussions, snacks, and games. Children entering grades 1-6 will attend M-F from 9:00 AM-2:30 PM, children entering grades 7-12 will attend Sun-Th from 7:00-9:15 PM.

Register [here](#) or
scan the QR code



Adult Faith Formation

Young Adult Ice Cream Social & Meet the New Deacon

Young Adults in the St. Joseph's faith community and their families are invited to an ice cream social at Taube Park in Marion on **Sunday, July 9th** from 3:00-4:30 PM. You will also have an opportunity to meet one of our newest Deacons, Tim DeWees.

We will be gathering to create new connections within our faith community and to spark conversation regarding the future engagement of young adults!



Pancakes next Sunday!

Knights of Columbus will be serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages in St. Pius Church Hall on **Sunday, June 4th**, 8:30-10:30 AM

Adults \$7.00 Seniors 65+ \$6.00
Children 5-12 years - \$3.00 Children under 5 - Free
Family price - \$20.00



KMMK 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner

KMMK 88.7 FM Talk Radio for Catholic Living will host the 5th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023** from 5:00-9:00 PM at Cedar Ridge Winery, 1441 Marak Road, Swisher, IA. Guest speakers are Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA and Fr. Patrick Mary, MFVA, from EWTN. The dinner is free but reservations are needed. Make your reservation at www.kmmk-fm.org and click on the Events Tab.

For further questions call
Sue May at 319-360-3290.



*The **Students First Act**, signed into law on January 24, 2023, makes state funding available to support the success of every K-12 student in Iowa. The bill establishes a framework and funding for education savings accounts, which may be used by eligible families to cover tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. This opportunity is available to qualifying families for the upcoming 23-24 school year. More information about ESAs can be found by going to tinyurl.com/fagasa.*

REGISTER NOW! St. Joseph Catholic Church Youth Faith Formation Grades K-12 2023-2024 Program Year

Registration is now open for YFF (K-8), High School Faith Formation and Confirmation Preparation.

Please follow this [link](#) to register!
Questions? Call 319-377-8402



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Catholic Worker House, Waterloo, IA

Week-long: July 9-15 (Cost \$100) St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Worker House is a faith-based intentional community committed to practicing the Works of Mercy as found in Jesus' teachings. Service needs include: assisting with community meals, cleaning, painting, and ministry of presence. There will be the opportunity to give service with a few other non-profit organizations in Waterloo. Team has room for 2-3 more people. **Due date to apply: June 11.** If interested, contact Sr. Michelle Balek, OSF: 563-583-9786, balekm@osfdbq.org, or visit our website www.osfdbq.org/commonventure



Celebration of the Sacraments

Please remember in your prayers **Russell & Kara Smith**, who brought their son **Hayden Allen** to the waters of Baptism on May 21st



June 2, 3 and 4, 2023

Fun Days 2023 is just around the corner and final preparations are underway. Food and beverages have been ordered, the BINGO board and games are being dusted off, entertainment is booked, and signs are popping up in yards.

Have you signed up to volunteer? There are many slots still available. Please share your talents and support Fun Days. Visit the parish website (www.stjoesmarion.org) and hover over the Get Involved menu item and click on Fun Days. The link to the volunteer website is on the left hand side. View the opportunities and sign up for one or more shifts - we encourage you to volunteer for multiple slots! This is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners and participate in Fun Days.

Please remember to sign up for the Kids Fun Run and 5K Race. All can be reached by visiting the parish website (www.stjoesmarion.org) and hover over the Get Involved menu item and click on Fun Days.

DON'T MISS THE ENTERTAINMENT THIS YEAR! The line-up is outstanding. Friday night kicks off with Crazy Delicious at 6:00 PM. Luke Thomas will be performing Saturday from 2:00-5:00 PM, followed by Flash in a Pan Stringband at 6:00 PM. On Sunday at 11:30 AM, The Oldtime Cousins Polka Band. Then at 2:00 PM, join us for interactive Catholic trivia. Bring your smartphone and play along as our contestants on stage compete in this fun way to see what we all know about our faith and its impact in our world. After that, it's time for Catholic Jeopardy! Our panel of distinguished contestants will compete for the title of champion while our very own Fr. Dave provides commentary on the questions to enhance these fun facts.

Profits from this year's Fun Days will be used as seed funds for the capital campaign.

To contact the Fun Days Executive Committee, please call Rick McAllister at 319-310-0498 or email nfo@StJosephFunDays.org



Legacy Corner

Did you know St. Joseph Parish has \$1,865,000 in endowment funds? This is a testament to the importance of the Catholic faith to late parishioners including St. Joseph in their will. If you would like more information about leaving a legacy gift to St. Joseph Parish contact Doug Brock at 319-377-4869. If you would like information about gift planning, please contact our planning partner at the Catholic Foundation at 563-552-0176 or CFAD@OurCFAD.org.

Marriage Enrichment

"they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"
(Acts 2:4)

Reflecting on the Holy Spirit that acts within us and through us, St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote that "it is quite natural for people who had been absorbed by the things of this world to become otherworldly in outlook." With the natural busyness of our lives...school, work, and other activities it is easy to get caught up in the busyness, ensuring everything gets covered or accomplished. With this comes the risk of the family being less of a priority. Realize that the Holy Spirit influences our everyday lives. With prayerful reflection, discern with your spouse this influence of the Spirit and whether there needs to a rebalance of priorities to give proper time to your family and attention to your children. Doing so helps to strengthen your marital relationship.

Please join us for the Memorial Day Mass honoring our loved ones on **Monday, May 29th** at 9:00 AM at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery, next to the Mt. Calvary office at 375 32nd St. Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids. Bring lawn chairs and/or an umbrella for shade. If it is raining, the Mass will be celebrated at St. Matthew's, 2310 1st Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids. Questions, please call the office at 319-362-4659.



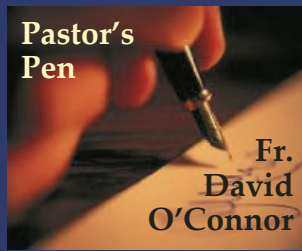
Catholic Worker House Meals

Help feed the hungry! Every **2nd Monday** of the month, the St. Joseph Social Justice Committee & friends collaborate to provide a meal for 25 children and adults staying at the St. John of the Cross Catholic Worker House in Cedar Rapids. Sign up to provide part of a meal, then drop off your ready-to-eat contribution at St. Joseph Catholic Church (main front doors) between 4:00-4:30 PM on that second Monday. Our volunteer transporter will leave St. Joe's at 4:30 PM to ensure that all the dinner components will arrive by 5:00 PM.

Sign up at <http://signup.com/go/PYkXJGy>
Thank you for your generosity!

St. Joseph School News

Matthew Decker did a great job as principal of the day last week, Mylah Lucas Hines was an awesome secretary and Elliott Marshall did great as music teacher. All items were purchased at Shamrock!



Pentecost—It is good to make a special effort to celebrate important days, like birthdays, and anniversaries, such as a wedding or an ordination, on a consistent basis. It grounds us in the truth of what is being celebrated.

We do so today on Pentecost as we commemorate the anniversary of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and its members. We identify Pentecost as the birthday of the Church as the disciples were empowered by the Spirit to preach the gospel, call for the repentance from sins, to baptize and to teach what Jesus did. The Church started with those in the Upper Room when tongues as of fire alighted above their heads. From there, Jesus has been taken to the world.

Remembering Pentecost helps us to recall and be renewed in the fact that the Holy Spirit is with us now and continues to pour his multitudinous gifts upon us. It is important that we act upon the gifts we have received, that they bear fruit in our lives and the world as God intended. The world constantly needs renewal, the spark, fire and light of God's love that comes from the Spirit. You are a part of that renewal by acting as God's instrument through the gifts you have received. Be that fire to bring renewal upon the face of the earth.

Ordinations to the Diaconate and Priesthood for the Archdiocese of Dubuque--Gregory Lambert was ordained to the diaconate on Friday of this week and Deacons Casey Flack and Jeffrey Frieden to the priesthood on Saturday. We rejoice in the gift of a new deacon who, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood next year and for two new priests.

Fr. Flack will be having Masses here the weekend of June 17-18 and we will plan on having a reception for him, likely after each of the Masses. Recall that he did his diaconal internship with us last summer. This is a time of celebration with Fr. Flack as he has been ordained and that we were a part of his formation for the priesthood. Please plan to be a part of the celebration that weekend.

Thank you for your prayers for vocations. They are making a real difference. Please don't forget to encourage boys and young men from our parish and beyond who would make good candidates for the priesthood. They may not know that God is calling them unless you ask.

The Distribution of the Precious Blood—We have resumed the practice of distributing the Precious Blood during weekend Masses which was suspended in March of 2020 due to the pandemic. There will be two chalices available for distribution. We will add two more if there is a need for them and if we have enough Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to cover the four chalices on a weekly basis. For the time being, we will not reintroduce the distribution of the Precious Blood at daily Mass.

Wednesday Mass Time—With our school having dismissed for the summer on Friday, effective on Wednesday, May 31st, the Wednesday morning Mass will be at 7:30 AM until school reconvenes for classes on August 23rd.

You're Invited to Join the Archdiocese of Dubuque's IMPACT Program!

Do you thirst for a deeper relationship with God? Do you hunger for increased knowledge of the Catholic faith? Do you desire to make a greater IMPACT in your parish and community? IMPACT is a two-year formation program for adult Catholics. Through spiritual reading and monthly sessions with dynamic presenters, IMPACT provides formation in the Catholic faith in order to help participants live as missionary disciples in their parish and community. The next offering of the Archdiocese of Dubuque's IMPACT program will be held at Resurrection School in Dubuque, starting in September of 2023. To learn more and apply, visit www.dbqarch.org/impact.

Prayer for Vocations: You are invited to St. Ludmila Parish on **Tuesday, May 30th** for Mass at 5:30 PM followed by a Holy Hour to pray for Vocations from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. (Join us for what your schedule allows.) The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time. Also, seminarian Hung Le will be sharing his vocation story with us. Let us pray that the Lord will send more laborers for the harvest.

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TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

Comments regarding this insert may be sent to communications staff by emailing contactus@dbqarch.org or by calling (800) 876-3546 and asking for the director of communications.

May 2023 Vol. 3 | No. 6

This document is available as a PDF at www.dbqarch.org/together



WHEN I WAS A STRANGER, YOU WELCOMED ME

An interview with Ry Meyer, Immigration Attorney with Catholic Charities

By Cassie Bird

Ry Meyer is a Dubuque native who grew up in the Catholic school system – attending Sacred Heart for grade school and then graduating from Wahlert High School. After attending Clarke University for college, he enlisted in the United States Navy for 6 years, which he says gave him a global kind of understanding outside of the confines of growing up in Dubuque. Following the Navy, Ry went to law school, and then practiced as an attorney doing prosecutorial work. When it was time for a change, he came on board to Catholic Charities in 2018. He describes finding his niche in immigration law, which he believes is one of the great civil rights questions of our age.



What qualities are important to possess as an immigration legal services attorney?

I think you have to balance empathy and understanding against solid, evidence-based legal analysis. We want to help everyone who has a tough situation, and we get a lot of nuanced issues and consultations where your heart wants to help but you have to apply the law. Some situations are really sad; a lot of them are very sad.

I'm a Navy veteran, and the security of our country and the solidity of our borders matters to me. I swore an oath to uphold our

Constitution, values and laws, and I was also a criminal prosecutor. So people following the law, and breaks being given only when the law allows and it's judicious to do so, is also something that appeals to me. Our program certainly welcomes this mindset. I think that's something our immigration system aspires to allow, and that's something we're trying to do at Catholic Charities – we're actually making our borders stronger by helping people follow a legal path.

What does your work look like on a daily/weekly basis as an immigration attorney?

I do a lot of paperwork because the federal government is a bureaucracy and bureaucracies love to generate paperwork. Some of it's very interesting when you're compiling evidentiary exhibits and peoples' biographies. Some of it is very repetitive, filling in similar boxes on similar forms. That's a lot of our days. But you never quite know what type of situation is going to come through the door.

People may be surprised to learn that many unaccompanied minors come to our borders asking for help because they've been abandoned, abused or neglected in their own country. There may actually be immigration relief for them and packages available for them, and many of those situations are time sensitive. Not just unaccompanied minors, although that's usually where I encounter this, but sometimes you have situations of urgent assistance and that can really cause the haystack of paperwork to get shoved to the side and get laser-focused on one project.

And hopefully in the end, all of that paperwork leads to a good resolution for the client.

Well yes, we're selling hope, but also realistic hope. Because I think there are some who believe just by filing something and telling someone it will work will help someone. But that doesn't help someone unless there's a solid legal basis for it. That's why our free consultations are very important to give people a realistic view of what their options are. We need to balance providing realistic services against those who would sell the intoxicating mix of false hope.

I worry about the people who bog down our system filing things, just on the hope that maybe it will pass muster – I would prefer they come to us for a free consultation so we can tell them if they don't have an option. Then they should probably consider possibly returning to their home country. And if they do have an option to move forward, even if it's like I say, just a bunch of paperwork, or if it's something time sensitive and urgent, we want to be able to provide that service and get the approval notice at the end of the day that puts them on a legal path or maintains the legal path that they already have because that's the bulk of our clients.

Do you perform many consultations personally? Or how does that work?

We perform numerous consultations a week. One of the reasons people should donate to us is that there is such a tremendous need. For the last several months, I've assisted coverage in Waterloo and in Cedar Rapids, because those offices are already at capacity. I'm close to capacity. For all of us, immigrant community is comprised of our friends, neighbors, and parishioners. They need assistance, and there are not enough immigration services providers.

There are very few immigration providers for the population that needed assistance. And many of those people in that population do meet our criteria for when we're helping them, we're helping to fulfill our goals of poverty reduction, keeping families together, and helping people who otherwise would not be able to access help. But the few [private] attorneys who are around sometimes do have to charge more due to the fact that they are not operating as nonprofit organizations, which can create barriers for potential clients.

Can you talk about one of the most impactful moments during your practice of immigration law?

As I said, I assist a lot of unaccompanied minors establishing legal status for themselves, and that's a very long process. It takes several years for them to get legal permanent resident status and there are several steps in between. They have to stay here during that process and they have to

remain in guardianship, which is supervision by our local court, while I work on their immigration stuff.

A couple of years ago, I had a young man who fled extreme poverty in Guatemala after his family could not take care of him, and he had been abandoned. When this kid came to the U.S., I recognized he was intelligent, really charismatic, and had a very winning personality. You could tell he was struggling with being far from home, not fitting in, and adjusting. Like many abandoned youth, there was a temptation to leave our program and its responsibilities and get sucked into an irresponsible lifestyle. While I liked this kid, at first I kind of dreaded hearing the next piece of news about him. I worried he might feel overwhelmed by his responsibilities here and grief from familial abandonment, and end up making choices that might lead to him having difficulties. But thankfully I was wrong about that.

About a year into his program, I called his guardian about some minor paperwork. But, he had reached a turning point. His English was to a point that he was conversational. His grades had dramatically improved in school. He had made a lot of friends, and was friends with everybody. He's on the soccer team, he loves it, he's asking his guardian what kind of Christmas presents he should buy for his teachers. Even his counselor at school said this is like a totally different kid.

And right after that, we were able to apply for and obtain his work authorization and get him a social security card. So he was able to get insurance, and his guardian's parents were getting rid of their old car, so he was buying their old car. It all happened right around Christmas, and it was really heartwarming that I had this moment where I was really happy for this kid. He had turned a corner and he had a ton of friends and was doing well and right on the heels of that he was able to get his insurance and work authorization and get himself driving.

It just goes to show the sort of effect that we serve our clients who come from a place where they have left everything - not all of them, but some of them have left everything. They've plunged themselves into a world where they don't know how things work and they're really apprehensive about the future. They have no privileges, rights, benefits, their family is far away, but with the stability that comes from our services and the things that we can provide them, they can really turn a corner.

How are guardians determined by the local courts?

The kids really have to find their own guardian. We're always interested in people

who would like to volunteer to be a guardian, because if we know someone, sometimes we can connect them, but that's not the thing we typically do. All guardians go through a background check with the court. Sometimes kids pick teachers or other adults they know.

Another sort of heartwarming story is when I started in 2018, one of the first kids that I helped was an unaccompanied minor, and he got his Green Card - that means he's a legal permanent resident - so he's on track to become a citizen if he wants in the couple of years, but he's a legal permanent resident and he can keep that status forever if he wants. And he now is guardian to a young unaccompanied minor who showed up in Dubuque and was from his same country and speaks the same indigenous language. He wants to pay it forward and be guardian for that kid. So, I think that's really cool.

He's not the only one, but he's the only one that I have helped from start to finish in this process, but we do have others who are now strengthening that community. They are assimilating into the US, but also bringing a unique cultural and historical perspective from their home countries.

You've touched on this a little already, but is there anything you would add to the challenges of being in immigration law?

We have a lot of programs that would make sense to put into place, but that just don't seem to come to be. For example, an Afghan Adjustment Act, that would provide a legal path forward to the people who have assisted our military and share United States values, and actually promoted our values in the face of war in their home country, now are disenfranchised. We brought them here, but there's no path forward for them. Now what? I think there's broad political consensus that we should do something, but we haven't yet.

I think the recipients of the DACA program are similar. They had absolutely no say, they were children, in the manner in which they ended up in the United States. The fact of it is, they grew up here as little children. They are now young adults. They have gone to our schools, have graduated from college many of them, and want to work and participate in our economy. They don't want to take, they want to give. They truly are a part of the fabric of our community. They have never known another country. I think they are a population for which everyone agrees we should provide a path forward, but right now the program itself is a problem. The people are a huge benefit, why not make the program a benefit as well and give them a path forward instead of a future of uncertainty?

An example of where we've done things right is the Uniting for Ukraine Program. Where very quickly, in response to a catastrophe, the

United States put together a program which people can quickly, legally access to the United States and not to avail themselves to further government - you know, they're not coming here to soak up our resources, they're coming here willing to contribute in the face of a humanitarian disaster for which many reasons we should welcome them here. The program seems to be working very well

What do you wish more people knew about Immigration Legal Services or immigration law?

I think that there is a perceived difference a lot of people have between people "of the US" and "others." That there's this perception in some people that language and cultural barriers are vast and that the difference between "us" that live here, and "them" that live outside some arbitrary boundary on a map, are different and therefore threatening in some way. But the reality of it is, we all share the same goals and desires. We all want safety and stability. We all want to contribute to our communities. One of the things that we recognize with Catholic Charities is the importance of family and keeping families together, and for immigrants, for a lot of them, that's all they have are their families, because our system is so difficult to access.

Once you get past that false perception that there's this vast gulf or difference, it makes it very easy to follow the line in the gospel that we always go back to. Specifically, what Jesus says in Matthew 25 when the apostles ask, what do you want us to do? Well, when I was naked you clothed me, when I was a stranger you welcomed me, when I was homeless you gave me shelter. But then they ask, but when did we do that for you? And Jesus says, when you did it for the least of my people, you did it for me. So it makes it easy to follow that particular verse when you realize the perception of difference between "us" and "them," is really just a matter of perception, warped by a sense of history. Jesus accepts us all, He doesn't discriminate.

Thanks to the generous support of those in the archdiocese, Catholic Charities is able to offer their immigration legal services at a reduced rate or sometimes even at no-cost, based upon the client's income. Consultations are always offered for free. Thank you for your support which makes this important work possible, and is the only program of its kind in the Archdiocese of Dubuque

ArchdioceseOne Update

Thanks to your sacrificial gift, over \$15.2 million has been raised for the ArchdioceseOne special appeal. Over \$7.6 million of this amount has been left unrestricted, and over \$1.07 million has been restricted to Immigration Legal Services.