

New assignments for 33 priests

3 retirements among changes; 11 parishes getting new pastors

The granting of senior status to Msgr. Charles Beebe, Msgr. James Swaner, and Father Donald Henderson highlight appointments affecting 33 priests announced this month by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC.



Msgr. Beebe

New pastors have been assigned to 11 parishes, while temporary administrators were named to four additional faith communities.

Chaplain transitions have been announced for Central Catholic High School in Bloomington, Alleman High School in Rock Island, and college ministries at Illinois State University, Normal, and Augustana College, Rock Island.



Msgr. Swaner

The complete list of appointments is found on page 3. The changes take effect on Wednesday, June 8.

Profiles of the three retiring priests appear on pages 10 and 11.



Father Henderson

Msgr. Beebe, 71, has been pastor of St. Joseph, Roanoke, and St. John, Benson, since 2003. Msgr. Swaner, 80, has been pastor of St. Mary, Utica, also since 2003. Father Henderson, 72, is completing a year as parochial vicar at three Peoria parishes — St. Mary Cathedral, Sacred Heart, and St. Bernard.

NEW PASTORS

Named to succeed Msgr. Beebe in guiding the Roanoke and Benson parishes is Father Eugene Radosevich, who will continue to serve as pastor of St. Luke, Eureka, and chaplain of the Salve Regina Newman Center on the campus of Eureka College. Ordained in 1990, Father Radosevich has been at his current assignments for eight years. He has also served as pastor of parishes in Downs, Ransom, Streator, Cambridge, Galva, Woodhull, Havana, Manito and Camp Grove.

In Rock Island, Father Anthony Co will become pastor of St. Mary and Sacred Heart



Support as ordination nears

Deacon Michael Pica accepts a stack of handmade cards from Bria Hartke, a first-grader at Holy Cross School in Champaign, at the close of an all-school Mass on May 13. He received more than 300 cards from the students pledging prayers and expressing gratitude as Deacon Pica, who was raised in Holy Cross Parish, prepares to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria on Saturday, May 28. Looking on is Evan Williams, holding cards from sixth-graders, and Elizabeth Kelley, religion coordinator for grades 6-8 who had just presented him a gift bag of books from the students to use in his ministry, including Pope Francis' new book answering questions from children (right). A story on Deacon Pica and the approaching ordination Mass is found on page 3. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody



lain of Peoria Notre Dame High School. He was ordained in 1999.

SUCCEEDING FRANCISCANS

With the Franciscan friars returning the care of St. Mary Parish in Bloomington to the diocese, Bishop Jenky has appointed Father Gregory Nelson to be that parish's new pastor. Father Nelson has been pastor of St. Paul Parish in Danville since

Newspaper of the
Diocese of Peoria
Sunday, May 22, 2016
Vol. 82, No. 11

In this issue



Be inspired by the stories of those marking jubilee years: **Section**



Three generations of family make Cursillo together: **P8**



Will we see a "Francis effect" on couples' wedding plans? **P17**

Index

GRADUATION SEASON ARRIVES	2
MANDATE BACK TO LOWER COURTS	4
WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS GRANTS	6
NEW CATHOLICS WELCOMED	7
OBITUARIES	12
AROUND THE DIOCESE	14
MAY DAYS DISPEL DARKNESS	16
HOW TO EVANGELIZE THIS SUMMER	17
LIVING THE WORD	18
ST. PIUS X ADDITION BLESSED	20

Congratulations, Brooke Hoeferle, on your high school graduation! God bless you always. Love, Nana and Papa



The Catholic POST

Mission Statement

The Catholic Post spreads the saving message of Jesus Christ as it faithfully informs, forms, and unites members of the Diocese of Peoria.
(USPS 557-000)

Publisher Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC

Editor-in-ChiefThomas Dermody Advertising ManagerSonia Nelson
Assistant EditorJennifer Willems ProductionTheresa Lindley

Board of Directors: John Gibson, chairman, Msgr. James Kruse, Deacon Greg Serangeli, Deacon Bob Sondag, Dr. Sharon Weiss, Jack Rooney



Member of the Catholic Press Association



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Catholic Post, PO Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656
Office located at 419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, IL 61603
Phone: (309) 671-1550, or (800) 340-5630
Fax: (309) 671-1579
Email: cathpost@cdop.org. Web address: thecatholicpost.com. Changes of address should include name of new parish.
Price: \$29. Published biweekly by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. Periodicals postage paid at Peoria, IL

The Catholic Post and all communications efforts of the Diocese of Peoria look to the example of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a native son of the diocese who pioneered the use of modern media to spread the Gospel message.



Be alerted to breaking Catholic news by following The Catholic Post via Facebook and Twitter.



High school graduations begin around diocese

The 65 seniors of St. Bede Academy in Peru toss their caps into the air after commencement ceremonies last Sunday at the Abbey Church. Schlarman Academy in Danville awarded diplomas the same day. Graduation ceremonies at Catholic high schools of the diocese continue this Sunday, May 22, at Bloomington Central Catholic and The High School of Saint Thomas More in Champaign, while Rock Island Alleman, Peoria Notre Dame, and Ottawa Marquette Academy have ceremonies planned on Sunday, May 29. Photo courtesy of Dawn Williams

IT Solutions For Your Business



Voice/Data Cabling	Security	Hardware Maintenance
Video Surveillance	Printers	Tech Support
Access Control	Staffing	Managed Services

www.BasicITS.com • (309) 698-2681



ResCare HomeCare

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| •Nursing Services-Adult & Pediatric | •Respite & Companions |
| •Personal Care | •Transportation & Errands |
| (Bathing, Dressing, Grooming, Ambulation) | •Meal Preparation |
| •Medication Assistance | •Housekeeping |

Bloomington (309) 663-4680 — Champaign (217) 398-4100
Danville (217) 446-6800 — Peoria (309) 691-3032

Visit us Online: www.rescarehomecare.com

St. Mary's Parish, Bloomington Franciscan Farewell Sunday, May 29, 2016

*Join us at 3 p.m.
in the church for a
special program
followed by a reception
in the school gym.*

*Celebrate 135 years of
Franciscan fellowship and
say "Fare Thee Well" to
Father Ric
Father Neri
Brother Kevin*

*as they move to the next
chapter of their journey
as servants of Christ.*



This page is sponsored by Deacon Harold Herdrich in thanksgiving of the fourth anniversary of Permanent Diaconate Class IX ordination

Official clergy appointments



Deacon Michael Pica stands at the entry door of Holy Cross Church in Champaign, where he has been a member since age 9. Deacon Pica will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria during the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria on Saturday, May 28. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody

Michael Pica to be ordained a priest May 28

BY TOM DERMODY
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

Deacon Michael Pica never thought he would be called to the priesthood.

"It's the other guys in the chapel, they're called," the transitional deacon remembers thinking in the fall of 2008 when — as a sophomore at Bradley University in Peoria studying health science — Msgr. Brian Brownsey asked him if he had ever considered being a priest.

In truth, Deacon Pica had long wanted to ask a priest what it took to live that life. And by the end of the conversation with Msgr. Brownsey, chaplain of St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center on campus and then diocesan director of vocations, he was "ecstatic" because a door had been opened to the possibility.

The question began a discernment process that led the young man who had been raised in Galesburg and Champaign to enter the seminary the following school year.

His journey culminates next Saturday, May 28, when Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, ordains him to the priesthood during a 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. Father Stephen Willard, Deacon Pica's former pastor at Holy Cross Parish in Champaign, will be vesting priest. The public is invited, and a reception will follow in the nearby Spalding Pastoral Center.

Father Pica, 27, will celebrate his first Mass at Holy Cross Church in Champaign — his family's parish since he was age 9 — at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 29. The homilist will be Father Donald Henderson, a family friend for two decades and "a priest I've greatly admired

SENIOR STATUS

Msgr. Charles J. Beebe, P.A., from pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke, and St. John Parish, Benson, to senior status

Father Donald R. Henderson, from parochial vicar, St. Mary's Cathedral, Sacred Heart Parish, and St. Bernard Parish, all in Peoria, to senior status

Msgr. James J. Swaner, from pastor, St. Mary Parish, Utica, to senior status

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

Father Jean de Dieu Ahorloo, SMA, from assignment within his religious community to parochial vicar, Christ the King Parish, Moline

Father Joseph A. Baker, from parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish, Champaign, and St. Patrick Parish, Urbana, to parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish, Bloomington

Father Paul R. Carlson, from parochial vicar, St. Hyacinth Parish, St. Patrick Parish, and Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine, all in LaSalle, to administrator, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Spring Valley

Father Anthony W. Co, from pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Andalusia, and sacramental care, Augustana College, to pastor, St. Mary Parish, Rock Island, and Sacred Heart Parish, Rock Island

Father Jeremy M. Freehill, from parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Rock Island, and chaplain team, Alleman High School, Rock Island, to chaplain, Alleman High School, Rock Island, and sacramental care, Augustana College, Rock Island, with residence at St. Mary Parish, Rock Island

Father Daniel P. Gifford, from assistant chaplain, St. John Catholic Newman Center, Champaign, to parochial vicar, St. Mark Parish, Peoria, and assistant chaplain, St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center, Peoria

Father Neri Greskowiak, OFM, from parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish, Bloomington, to a return to his religious community

Father Timothy D. Hepner, while remaining vocation director for recruitment, change in residence from Zube House, Peoria, to in residence at St. Mary Parish, Bloomington

Father Chase M. Hilgenbrinck, from parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish, Moline, St. Anne Parish, East Moline, and chaplain team, Alleman High School, Rock Island, to assistant chaplain, St. John Catholic Newman Center, Champaign

Father Geoffrey Horton, from parochial vicar, St. Mark Parish, Peoria, and assistant chaplain, St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center, Peoria, to parochial vicar, Holy Family Parish, Lincoln; St. Mary Parish, Atlanta; St. Patrick Parish, Elkhart; and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Mt. Pulaski

Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham, while remaining pastor, St. Patrick Church of Merna, Bloomington, and St. Mary Parish, Downs, to relinquishing duties with the sacramental team serving St. John Paul II Catholic Newman Center, Normal

Father Charles Klamut, from pastor, St. Ambrose Parish, Milan, and chaplain team, Alleman High School, Rock Island, to pastor, St. Ambrose Parish, Milan, and St. Patrick Parish, Andalusia

Father Anthony Mutio, from the Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, to parochial vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Pekin

Father John Bosco Mujuni, from parochial vicar,

St. Ann Parish, Peoria, to parochial vicar, St. Patrick Parish, Andalusia, and St. Ambrose Parish, Milan

Father Gregory E. Nelson, from pastor, St. Paul Parish, Danville, to pastor, St. Mary Parish, Bloomington

Father James T. Pankiewicz, from assistant chaplain, St. John Catholic Newman Center, Champaign, to parochial vicar, St. Mary Cathedral, St. Bernard Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish, all in Peoria

Father Peter A. Pilon, from pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Wapella, and chaplain, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington, to pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Mendota; Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Peterstown; and St. Theresa Parish, Earlville

Father John Pham, from parochial vicar, Holy Family Parish, Lincoln; St. Mary Parish, Atlanta; St. Patrick Parish, Elkhart; and St. Thomas, Mt. Pulaski, to parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish, Champaign, and St. Patrick Parish, Urbana

Father Scott D. Potthoff, from parochial vicar, St. Joseph Parish, Pekin, to parochial vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Rock Island

Father Eugene A. Radosevich, while remaining pastor, St. Luke Parish, Eureka, and chaplain, Salve Regina Catholic Newman Center, to pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke, and St. John Parish, Benson

Father Donald F. Roszkowski, from pastor, St. Mary Parish, El Paso, to administrator, St. Ann Parish, Peoria

Father Joseph Santa-Bibiana, SDB, from parochial vicar, Holy Cross Parish, Champaign, and Spanish ministry, St. Malachy Parish, Rantoul, to a return to his religious community

Father Ric Schneider, OFM, from pastor, St. Mary Parish, Bloomington, to a return to his religious community

Father Bowan M. Schmitt, from pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Mendota; Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Peterstown; and St. Theresa Parish, Earlville, to pastor, St. Paul Parish, Danville

Father Dustin Schultz, from parochial vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Peoria, to administrator, St. Patrick Parish, Wapella, and chaplain, Central Catholic High School, Bloomington

Father Deogratias Shimil'Imana, from studies in the Diocese of Davenport to parochial vicar, St. Mary Parish Moline, and St. Anne Parish, East Moline

Father Paul Stark, SJ, from sabbatical at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Peoria Heights, to parochial vicar, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Peoria Heights

Father Johnathan E. Steffen, from parochial vicar, St. Patrick Church of Merna, Bloomington, St. Mary Parish, Downs, and sacramental team at St. John Paul II Catholic Newman Center, Normal, to administrator, St. Mary Parish, El Paso, and chaplain, St. John Paul II Catholic Newman Center, Normal

Father Thomas E. Taylor, from parochial vicar, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Peoria Heights, to parochial vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Peoria

Father Jacob C. Valle, from parochial vicar, St. Philomena Parish, Peoria, to parochial vicar, St. Hyacinth Parish, St. Patrick Parish, and Holy Rosary Shrine, all in LaSalle

These appointments take effect at noon on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

This page is sponsored by Peter and Chantel Williams of Dahinda, members of St. Aloysius Parish, Wataga

Directive on transgender access 'deeply disturbing'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Obama administration's May 13 directive on transgender access to bathrooms "that treats 'a student's gender identity as the student's sex' is deeply disturbing," said the chairmen of two U.S. Catholic bishops' committees.

"The guidance fails to address a number of important concerns and contradicts a basic understanding of human formation so well expressed by Pope Francis: that 'the young need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created,'" the two bishops said in a statement May 16.

The statement was issued by Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, the chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Catholic Education.

The directive, or guidance, was

issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education. The departments said it applies to all public schools and colleges and universities that received federal funding.

In their statement Bishop Malone and Archbishop Lucas noted that the Catholic Church "consistently affirms the inherent dignity of each and every human person and advocates for the well being of all people, particularly the most vulnerable."

"Especially at a young age and in schools, it is important that our children understand the depth of God's love for them and their intrinsic worth and beauty. Children should always be and feel safe and secure and know they are loved," they said.

They said that children, youth and parents in "difficult situations," such as the focus of the federal guidance, "deserve compassion, sensitivity and respect."

Challenge to contraceptive mandate back to lower courts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court May 16 sent the Zubik v. Burwell case, which challenges the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive requirement for employers, back to the lower courts.

The justices' unanimous decision, explained in a nine-page unsigned opinion, was based on the information that both sides submitted a week after oral arguments were heard in the case about how and if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to this coverage.

The court made clear that it is not expressing an opinion on the merits of the cases that are challenging aspects of the federal government's health legislation and it also was not ruling on the issue of a potential violation of religious freedom.

Because of the "gravity of the dispute and the substantial clarification and refinement in the positions of the parties," the court stated that religious employers and the government should be "afforded an opportunity to arrive at an approach going forward that accommodates petitioners' religious exercise while at the same time ensuring that women covered by petitioners' health plans receive full and equal health coverage, including contraceptive coverage."

The court stressed that this

approach is "more suitable" than addressing the refined positions submitted by both sides and added that "although there may still be areas of disagreement between the parties on issues of implementation, the importance

of those areas of potential concern is uncertain, as is the necessity of this court's involvement at this point to resolve them."

Five appeals courts had ruled in favor of the contraceptive mandate and one had ruled against it. But now, equipped with the new

information both sides submitted to the Supreme Court, the lower courts have been ordered to review these cases once more.

"This is a game-changer," said Mark Rienzi, lead attorney for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represents the Little Sisters of the Poor, one of the groups challenging the federal contraceptive mandate.

He said the opinion reflects that the court has "accepted the government's concession" that it can provide contraceptives to women "without using the Little Sisters."

He also was pleased the court was forbidding the government "from fining the Little Sisters even though they are refusing to bow to the government's will. It is only a matter of time before the lower courts make this victory permanent," he said in a May 16 statement.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl had a more nuanced

look at the court's opinion, saying he was pleased that it offered a path forward, but he also acknowledged that "this struggle will continue."

The Washington archdiocese is one of several plaintiffs in this case.

The cardinal said the archdiocese will continue its work to "serve others in education, health care, social services, and outreach to the poor and those most in need. We will continue to do that because we are resolute that it is precisely by being true to our Catholic identity in what we proclaim and in what we do that we can continue to help realize a truly good and just society."

Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, for whom the consolidated group of cases is named, said in a statement that the Pittsburgh diocese was grateful the justices "recognize our willingness to reach a resolution that allows us to abide by our faith and the government to achieve its goals."

"We have already stated our willingness to come to such an agreement and we hope that the government shares that willingness," he added.

In brief

Bishop of Tulsa retires; Texas priest to succeed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and named as his successor Father David Konderla, a priest of the Diocese of Austin, Texas.

The appointment was announced in Washington May 13 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Slattery is 75, the age at which canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignation. He was appointed to head the Tulsa diocese in November 1993 by Pope John Paul II. Bishop-designate Konderla, 55, was ordained June 3, 1995.

Tentative plans call for the ordination and installation of Bishop-designate Konderla as Tulsa's fourth bishop at the end of June.



HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL

Thursday, June 2	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday, June 3	4 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday, June 4	11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Live Music Every Night.

Ride Wristband Special on Saturday.

CARNIVAL RIDES ● GAME BOOTHS

RAFFLES ● PRIZES

Food

Pork chops, hamburgers, bratwurst, beef and rib eye sandwiches, lemonade shakeups, soda and beer

Holy Family Parish

Corner of Sterling & Reservoir, Peoria



What's your idea of financial security?®

Let's get together for a free, no-obligation Insurance and Financial Review to make sure you have the right protection for today and the right plan for tomorrow.

COUNTRY

FINANCIAL

www.countryfinancial.com

0311-500HQ



Jim Carlson

4111 N. Prospect
Peoria Heights,
IL 61616
Office phone:
(309) 681-8717

This page is sponsored by Paul Laux of St. Bernard Parish, Peoria: "Remembering Toni Laux. R.I.P."



Pope Francis blesses Tennessee cancer patient

Pope Francis embraces Cheryl Tobin, who has stage IV cancer, during his general audience at the Vatican May 11. Tobin, from Clarksville, Tennessee, was visiting Rome to fulfill a dream and to pray for a miracle. Doctors have given her three to nine months to live. The pope held her hands and then blessed her head — bald from chemotherapy and misshapen from repeated skin grafts and operations to remove a tumor at the base of her skull. She said she didn't want to wear her wig because she wanted the pope to see her like she was. The pope then warmly embraced her as Cheryl cried on his shoulder. *CNS/L'Osservatore Romano*

Pope did not say he'd ordain women deacons, spokesman says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis “did not say he intends to introduce a diaconal ordination for women,” and he certainly did not speak about the ordination of women priests, the Vatican spokesman said.

Pope Francis met members of the International Union of Superiors General, the leadership group for superiors of women's orders, May 12 and accepted a proposal that he establish a commission to study the role of New Testament deaconesses and the possibility of women serving as deacons today.

After some news outlets reported the pope was considering ordaining women deacons and comments were made about women deacons leading to women priests, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi issued a clarification May 13.

The spokesman insisted “it is wrong to reduce all the important things the pope said to the religious women to just this question.”

Women and the diaconate “is a question that has been discussed much, including in the past, and that comes from the fact that in the early church

there were women who were called deaconesses, who carried out certain services within the community,” Father Lombardi said.

Pope Francis told the sisters that he thought it would be a good idea to form a commission “to take up this question again in order to view it with greater clarity,” Father Lombardi said. “But one must be honest: The pope did not say he intends to introduce a diaconal ordination for women and even less did he speak of the priestly ordination of women. In fact, talking about preaching during the eucharistic celebration, he let them know that he was not considering this possibility at all.”

In a video statement May 13, Sister Carmen Sammut, superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Africa and president of the UISG, said the sisters “were quite excited by the fact that Pope Francis did not leave any question out; he really wanted to answer each of our questions.

“He was very strong about the fact that women should be in the decision-making processes and the decision-making positions of the church,” she said.

In brief

Cardinal Coppa, 90, Latinist at Vatican II, nuncio, dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Giovanni Coppa, an expert Latinist and former nuncio, died May 16 at the age of 90.

Pope Francis, in a condolence message May 17, said the cardinal had “lived with fidelity his long and fruitful priesthood and episcopacy at the service of the Gospel and the Holy See. I recall with gratitude his generous and competent work as a steadfast collaborator of six popes, my predecessors, who entrusted him with delicate and important offices.”

Born in Alba, Italy, Nov. 9, 1925, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1949. After studies at the Catholic University of Milan, he began working at the Vatican in what was known as the Apostolic Chancery. The office was responsible for drafting, in Latin, formal papal documents, such as those for canonizations and beatifications or those marking the establishment of new dioceses or announcing pontifical honors.

He served as a Latinist at the Second Vatican Council and later worked in the Vatican Secretariat of State, which had taken over the duties of the Apostolic Chancery.

Late in 1979, St. John Paul II named him an archbishop and personally ordained him a bishop in early 1980. He served as nuncio first to Czechoslovakia and then to the Czech Republic from 1990 until 2001, when he retired.

Pope Benedict XVI had made him a cardinal in 2007.

Catholic college in Edmonton hosted Fort McMurray wildfire evacuees

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — A smiling St. Joseph's College employee poked her head around Danica Wolitski's door and said, “We've got another family with three children.”

St. Joseph's College on the University of Alberta campus housed evacuees from the Fort McMurray wildfires in its new women's campus. The college focused on families and those deemed medically vulnerable.

The college was especially concerned to provide homes for families with little children and fussing babies, so they did not have to live in the cot-lined barracks of various evacuations centers, said Wolitski, director of development. For vulnerable people with medical conditions, especially women with high-risk pregnancies, the University of Alberta Hospital was right next door.

The goal was to take in 10 families, who could be living there anywhere from six weeks to two months.

The apartments are ideal because they have kitchen facilities. The setting also offers a full cafeteria and four counselors available to meet the traumatized survivors. Basilian Father Glenn McDonald even has started a weekly children's liturgy.

Wolitski said several people came up with the idea and, once she posted the plan on her personal website, she began receiving donations. Edmonton's Catholic Social Services has been in touch and has offered to help out. Goodwill called and sent over 100 comforters. The campus food bank donated gift baskets of food.

Chiara Center Program Director

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis are seeking qualified candidates for the Chiara Center Program Director. The Program Director will fulfill the organization's Mission Statement: The Chiara Center is a faith community dedicated to the discovery and healing presence of God within one's self, everyday life, relationships, and all of creation. All programs, services, and hospitality are grounded in the spirit and heritage of Francis and Clare of Assisi.

The Program Director will plan, develop, promote and implement activities, both hosted and sponsored. Founded in 2007 and grounded in Franciscan spirituality and the Hospital Sisters' healing mission, Chiara Center has earned a local and regional reputation for providing the ideal environment and outstanding service for those seeking Christ's healing presence in a place for retreat and/or conference. Situated at the Hospital Sisters' Franciscan Life Center, Springfield, IL, amid 300 acres of walking paths and outdoor sacred spaces, Chiara Center offers a peaceful and inspirational setting for individuals, couples, and groups.

Chiara Center is composed of two wings:

- A spacious conference area including Bonaventure Hall which can accommodate up to 150 or which may be divided into smaller spaces amply furnished with audiovisual equipment. Several smaller conference rooms and rooms for spiritual direction are located nearby.

- A retreat house with 30 guest rooms large enough for double occupancy. The guest rooms are complemented by a large dining area and various lounges. The design of the interior space allows for multiple, independent meetings or a single activity.

For more information, visit chiaracenter.org and hospitalisters.org. Applicants should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred) in Human Services, education, theology, organizational behavior, or related field. Course work in Franciscan studies is desirable. Demonstrated success with program development is essential. Applications must be received by June 15, 2016.

For more information contact: Joyce Sprague, Director of Human Resources, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 19431, Springfield, IL 62794-9431, 217-522-3387, ext. 684, jsprague@hsosf-usa.org

This page is sponsored by David Welsh of Milan, a member of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline

Catholic Women's League allocates \$16,500 in grants

Thirteen organizations that serve the elderly, the homeless, at-risk babies and those in need in the Peoria area recently received \$16,500 in grants from the Catholic Women's League to continue their work.

During the 2016 Allocation Luncheon, which was held May 10 at the Spalding Pastoral Center in Peoria, the Catholic Women's League also installed new officers, thanked those who

had completed their service on the board, and recognized an "angel" in their midst.

The 530 members of the league raised enough money in the last year to allocate \$8,000 to Peoria Notre Dame High School for financial aid scholarships, and \$1,000 to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception (Heading Avenue Franciscans), South Side Office of Concern, St. Augustine Manor, Sophia's Kitchen and the Women's Care Center.

Receiving checks for \$500 were Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Peoria, Christ Child Society of Central Illinois, Common Place, Missionaries of Charity, Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Renaissance Stand, and St. Joseph's Home of Lacon.

In thanking CWL members, Sister Mary Barbara Buckley, OSF, assured them that their grant would help the Heading Avenue Franciscans carry on the ministry to the elderly that they began more than 100 years ago.

"We have a wonderful home in Springfield that is still functioning. Our efforts here in Peoria now amount to volunteering to help the elderly — especially



Catholic Women's League officers for the next two years are (from left) Joan Manning, Eileen Hahn, Mary Ann Ascitutto (seated), Angie Metz, Jeanette Borsberry, Beth Bussan, Joan Cheatham (seated), and Gail Kruse. The Catholic Post/Jennifer Willems



Longtime member Joan Manning received the 2016 Angel Award.



Angie Metz presents a check for \$1,000 to Kristen Berch-told of South Side Office of Concern. The Peoria organization seeks to end homelessness.

Joan Cheatham, St. Monica, East Peoria, membership director; Eileen Hahn, St. Monica, funding director; and Joan Manning, St. Philomena, spiritual development director.

Manning was also revealed to be the 2016 recipient of the Angel Award, which is given to a league member "who demonstrates commitment and leadership, along with exemplary service to the Catholic Women's League."

Manning taught fourth grade at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Peoria Heights for 18 years before retiring in 2000. She joined the Catholic Women's League the same year and was elected to her first term as financial secretary in 2006. She would serve two more terms, from 2011 to 2015.

Manning and her husband, Bill, have four grown children.

OSF hospitals named among nation's best

Both OSF St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg and OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac have been named among the Top 100 Rural and Community Hospitals in the United States. The honor comes from iVantage, a company specializing in health analytics and performance nationally.

Only four hospitals in Illinois were named to the list.

The results recognize that the top rural and community hospitals play a key role in providing a safety net to communities across America — measuring them across more than 70 performance metrics including quality, outcomes, patient perspective, affordability, population risk and efficiency.

the elderly poor whose needs we become aware of," she told them. "Your generosity and the generosity of other benefactors like you enable us to do volunteer ministry."

Those who represented the other charitable and service organizations followed suit, talking about the need and offering their gratitude on behalf of the people who would benefit.

GAVEL PASSED

Before welcoming new members, the Catholic Women's League board thanked retiring members

Mary Jo Callahan, immediate past president, and Arlene Heinz, secretary, for their work.

In her last official act as president, Angie Metz of St. Philomena, Peoria, presented the gavel to Beth Bussan, also a member of St. Philomena. Metz will continue on the board as immediate past president.

The other new officers include: Gail Kruse, St. Edward, Chillicothe, secretary; Jeanette Borsberry, St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria, treasurer; Mary Ann Ascitutto, St. Thomas the Apostle, Peoria Heights, financial secretary;

11 Days Best of Ireland October 31 — November 10, 2016

Hosted by Msgr. James K. Ramer

Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Mahomet

\$2,599 per person from Chicago

(Air/land tour price is \$2,259 plus \$340 govt. taxes/airline fuel surcharges)

Tour includes:

Roundtrip air from Chicago; first class/select hotels; most meals; professional driver/guide; comprehensive sightseeing, and more!

For a brochure and more information contact Msgr. Ramer at:

Office (217) 586-5569 Cell: (309) 737-8668

email: themontagator@yahoo.com

ask us about
our competitive
loan rates!

boat | rv | auto | business
mortgage | home equity

South Side Bank
Member FDIC Since 1922
southsidebank.com

For all your insurance needs contact
Mid Illinois Insurance Services, Inc.
A subsidiary of South Side Bank

PEORIA ■ WEST PEORIA ■ EAST PEORIA ■ CHILLICOTHE
BARTONVILLE ■ WASHINGTON ■ PEKIN

This page is sponsored by Deacon Gregory Luigi Serangeli: "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation." (Mark 16:15)

Presence golf tourney set in Urbana June 27

URBANA — Cardiac pulmonary rehabilitation services will be the real winner of the Presence Covenant Medical Center Covenant Cup Golf Tournament, which is planned for Monday, June 27, at the Urbana Country Club, 100 E. Country Club Road.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. with lunch available at 11 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

Registration before May 31 is \$175 per golfer or \$700 per foursome. This includes green fees, cart rental, lunch, refreshments on the course, dinner and cocktails, and a gift for each participant.

After May 31, the cost will be \$200 per golfer and \$800 per foursome.

All proceeds will go toward the purchase of cardiac pulmonary rehabilitation equipment, including treadmills, seated elliptical and recumbent bicycles.

The golf outing is hosted by the Presence Covenant Foundation. To register, visit presence-health.org/covenant-golf. For more information, call (217) 337-4717.



Mass welcomes diocese's new Catholics

Among those joining Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria on May 8 for the annual Mass celebrating those who entered the Catholic church at the Easter Vigil in churches around the Diocese of Peoria were Jack and Sheila Miller, new members of Historic St. Patrick Parish in Bloomington.

They are shown in the center of the top photo, with their sponsors, Cheryl Fike and Bill Fike, on the outside. The Millers became interested in the Catholic faith after going on a tour of Catholic churches in Chicago on Holy Thursday in 2015 and experiencing not only the beauty and meaning of the architecture but the "warmth and love for Jesus" of the other pilgrims.

Jack, who was baptized at the Easter Vigil, wore his baptismal gown to the cathedral Mass. He is shown at left posing with Bishop Jenky. The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody



3 parishes seek items for 'Bless Our Babies' drive

CHERRY — The parishes of Holy Trinity in Cherry, St. Patrick in Arlington, and St. Thomas More in Dalzell are accepting baby items and donations through this Sunday, May 22, to benefit newborns in need.

The "Bless Our Babies" drive seeks to gather food, clothing, diapers, lotion and other things a newborn would need. Boxes are available in the vestibule of each church.

Holy Trinity, 212 S. Main St., will take items from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Goods and donations may be dropped off from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday at St. Patrick, 106 Church St. The collection times at the Dalzell church, 302 Chestnut St., are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Everything will be taken to the Hall Township Food Pantry for distribution.

For more information, call the parish office at Holy Trinity, (815) 894-2006.



Henry Knights present funds from drive

The Henry Knights of Columbus recently presented checks for \$700 to Jane Duncan, executive director of Lighted Way in LaSalle, and Jeffrey Dean, president of Gateway Services of Princeton. Also pictured are Father Thomas Mizeur (far left), chaplain of the Henry Knights of Columbus, and Kris Villiger, grand knight. The money was raised last fall when the Knights of Columbus sold Tootsie Rolls to benefit individuals with intellectual disabilities. An additional check for \$700 will be given to the Henry Grade School special education program. Provided photo

Refugee crisis is topic Saturday in Bettendorf

BETTENDORF, Iowa — Catholic medical professionals in the Quad Cities region are invited to presentations on the plight of refugees at 10 a.m. this Saturday, May 21, at St. John Vianney Church, 4097 18th St.

The presentations, on the theme "Are We Human? The Humanitarian Crisis of Today," are sponsored by the St. Thomas Aquinas Guild, a chartered guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

The speakers include:

● Dr. Madji A. Omar, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Unity Point Medical Center in Bettendorf. Dr. Omar received his medical degree from Kuwait University in 1990 and is

a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the Syrian and Jordanian medical associations. He has returned to Jordan several times since the Syrian civil war began, providing care to children in refugee camps fleeing the conflict.

● Ann Garton, a registered nurse and a clinical assistant professor at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, who will speak on the ethical dilemma of border control versus humanitarian support. She recently volunteered in "The Jungle" refugee camp in Calais, France.

There is no charge to attend. For more information, email stthomasaquinasguild@gmail.com.

Pontiac parishioners to pray for priests in global relay

PONTIAC — Parishioners young and old at St. Mary Parish here will add their prayers to those circling the world on June 3 as part of the Annual Global Rosary Relay promoted by WorldPriest. The goal is to give thanks for priests and to seek Mary's aid in strengthening and protecting them in their ministry.

Shari Paris, a group leader for the Children's Rosary at St. Mary, said students from the school and religious education program have been invited to gather in church at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 3, to pray the rosary. The Mass that follows at 9:30 a.m. will be for the intention of the WorldPriest

Global Rosary Relay.

St. Mary has a perpetual adoration chapel and the Friday adorers have been asked to join the effort by praying a special rosary that day.

People don't have to come to Mass or be part of the perpetual adoration program, however. Anyone may add their prayers by saying a rosary during the day, according to Paris.

"This is so very important in this day and age," she said. "I feel, and Jesus said, 'If two or more are gathered. . . ' How powerful this will be!"

For more information, visit worldpriest.com and click on the link for the Rosary Relay.



Peoria Notre Dame Foundation is a program to give permanent support to Catholic secondary education. Let Peoria Notre Dame share in your estate or life insurance. You'll feel good helping to pass on what has been so vital to so many.

Consult your attorney or insurance agent.

Please contact us for information about planned giving.

5105 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

Phone: (309) 691-9531

This page is sponsored in thanksgiving for family — Sharon, David and Gabriel Weiss

Three generations share gift of Cursillo in same weekend

BY JENNIFER WILLEMS
OF THE CATHOLIC POST

MILAN — It is not unusual for several members of the same family to experience Cursillo over time. For three generations to make the same Cursillo weekend is a different story, however.

That's what the women of the Kilcoin family of Milan and Matherville did this spring at the Believers Together Center in Moline. It left them at peace and refocused in a way they didn't expect — and for which they will always be grateful.

Sharing the weekend were Chris Kilcoin, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Andalusia, and her mother-in-law Kathleen Kilcoin, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Matherville. Joining them was Chris' daughter Sydney, who happened to be home on a spring break from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

They had the age spectrum covered, with Sydney, 20, being the youngest, and Kathleen, 71, being the senior member of the group.

Chris was the one who got the ball rolling.

"I NEEDED CURSILLO"

Cursillo is a Spanish word, which means, "short course." Cursillo in Christianity is a three-day renewal experience, sponsored by the Catholic Church, that is designed to bring



Chris Kilcoin, her daughter Sydney, and mother-in-law Kathleen Kilcoin were able to make Cursillo the same weekend this spring, which is thought to be the first time three generations did this together in central Illinois. *Provided photo*

Christians to a greater knowledge and love of the Lord, and to a deeper level of commitment to their faith.

When she heard about Cursillo, Chris thought it would be a good way for her and her husband, Rick, to prepare for their soon-to-be "empty nest." In addition to Sydney, the Kilcoins have two sons, Aidan and Liam, who are seniors in high school.

"I didn't know a lot about it," she admitted, but said, "I knew there'd be ways to volunteer. You'd meet a whole group of people involved with the church

and we could have a whole new social group."

Because husbands are required to attend a Cursillo weekend first, they started looking for ways to work that into Rick's work schedule and the fall sports schedule at school. In the midst of everything, Chris had a medical emergency and Rick lost his father and uncle.

"I needed Cursillo more than ever," Chris told The Catholic Post. "It wasn't the time to go in November. It's like God's got this planned out to go now, because it was just a rollercoaster of

emotions with everything going on. . . . The highs and lows of life."

Rick was able to be part of Cursillo No. 1101 and liked it so much that he told Sydney she should go. Then he called his mother.

"He said, 'I've already got the papers filled out and I'm going to drop them off,'" Kathleen recalled with a laugh.

"He just told us we would really like it," Chris said.

While Rick sponsored his mother and daughter, Chris was sponsored by Sheila Herman, a friend who leads her Bible study at the Andalusia church. That brought everything full circle, since Sheila's husband, Marty, had sponsored Rick.

The weekend — they were part of Cursillo No. 1105 — allowed the women to give up the busyness of the outside world, take a deep breath and find some calm.

Chris said they appreciated the way the Cursillo team took care of them.

Rick added that support came in another form.

"You don't realize how people are praying for you," he said.

Chris noted that the Cursillo experience helped them to refocus their lives and embrace what's really important.

"It's such a blessing," she said. "People put it on a list as if it's something you have to do, but it's not. It's a gift."

They brought their newfound enthusiasm to St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria for the Chrism Mass, traveling by bus with other Catholics from Andalusia and Milan.

Chris added that she's excited to see how their new outlook will affect their family life.

"Hopefully it will keep our focus in the right place," she said.

Iowa priest donating a kidney to friend, a religious brother

BALLTOWN, Iowa (CNS) — Christian Brother Stephen William Markham and Father Scott Bullock already shared a strong spiritual bond as two men who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ as a consecrated religious and a priest.

Very soon, they also will be connected by blood.

Come June 16, or thereabout, Brother Markham is scheduled to receive a kidney from his friend through transplant surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Since March 2015, Brother Markham, 72, a native of Rickardsville, Iowa, near Dubuque, has been dependent on dialysis to survive. A flare-up of chronic glomerulonephritis, a kidney disease he has had since age 14, caused his organs to fail. The surgery is expected to end the treatments.

Brother Markham remembers clearly the day he learned about his donor.

"It was a very humbling but very good feeling. It didn't sink in until I got to dialysis that day," he recalled.

"Father Scott and I had lunch the other day and I tried to say to him, there's just no way (I can) thank him enough. He said, 'You have thanked me.'"

Father Bullock and Brother Markham became friends when they served from 1999 to 2002 at parishes in nearby towns southeast of Dubuque. Father Bullock, the current pastor at St. Edward Parish in Waterloo, said he is not nervous about the surgery.

"It gives me a lot of joy to be able to do it. As a priest, I'm trying to model my life after Jesus. This seems like a perfectly concrete way to do that. I'm going to be a priest 25 years this year," Father Bullock said.

He underwent tests at the Mayo Clinic and learned he was a match for the procedure. He made the final decision to donate after a night in prayer.

Now retired and living in Balltown, Brother Markham is expected to spend several weeks in recovery at a special facility at Mayo.

Both are asking for prayers that the surgery goes well.

People in the diocese

June birthdays for 11 priests in diocese

Among those blowing out birthday candles in June are 11 priests with ties to the Diocese of Peoria. Many happy returns to:

Canon John J. Flattery (June 4);
Father Paul Meisner (June 7);
Father Scott Archer (June 8);
Father Paul A. Stiene, IC (June 10);
Father Stephen McKinley, OFM Conv. (June 11);
Father Robert Hoffmann (June 14);
Father Thomas Brajkovich (June 15);
Msgr. Steven Rohlf (June 17);
Msgr. Charles Beebe and **Father R.E. Enderlin** (June 23);
Father James Rickey (June 25).



Nazareth House

Retreat Center of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria

"The Eucharist, Fount of Mercy"



Women's Summer Retreat July 8-10

Retreat Master:
Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus & Mary

For more information or to register: *Cost: \$180*
registration@nazarethretreathouse or call us at (309) 364-3084
PO Box 165, Henry, IL 61537

APPOINTMENTS

FROM 1

2005 and is the vicar of the Danville Vicariate. Ordained in 1997, he has also served as pastor of parishes in Monticello and Bement.

Succeeding Father Nelson as pastor of St. Paul Parish in Danville is Father Bowan Schmitt. Since 2014, Father Schmitt has been pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Mendota, as well as St. Theresa, Earlville, and Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown. A former chaplain of Schlarman High School in Danville, he has also served as pastor of parishes in Philo, Bongard, Pesotum, Marseilles, Ransom, and Hoopeston since his ordination in 1997.

The faith communities in Mendota, Earlville, and Peterstown will now be served by Father Peter Pilon. Since 2010, Father Pilon has been pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Wapella, and chaplain of Central Catholic High School in Bloomington. Ordained in 2000, he is a former pastor of parishes in Odell and Campus and a former chaplain of Marquette High School in Ottawa.

CHAPLAIN CHANGES

The new chaplain at Central Catholic is Father Dustin Schultz, who will also serve as administrator of St. Patrick, Wapella. Father Schultz has been parochial vicar at St. Vincent

de Paul Parish in Peoria since 2014, and is a former chaplain of Marquette Academy in Ottawa. He was ordained in 2008.

Meanwhile, Father Jeremy Freehill has been named chaplain of Alleman High School and of campus ministry at Augustana College, both in Rock Island. Ordained in 2013, Father Freehill had been parochial

vicar at St. Pius X Parish in Rock Island and part of a chaplain team serving Alleman the past two years.

Father Johnathan Steffen, who has been part of the sacramental team at St. John Paul II Newman Center at Illinois State University in Normal for two years, has been named chaplain of that Newman Center. He will also

take on duties as administrator of St. Mary Parish in El Paso.

Father Donald Roszkowski, pastor of the El Paso parish for three years, has been named administrator of St. Ann Parish in Peoria.

Father Robert Spilman continues to recover from injuries sustained in a March 17 auto accident. Father Paul Carlson,

who has been parochial vicar of St. Hyacinth, St. Patrick, and Holy Rosary parishes in LaSalle, has been named administrator of Nativity of Our Lord, Spring Valley. In short time, once the health of Father Spilman improves, the long-term leadership of the parishes of Nativity of Our Lord, Spring Valley, and St. Mary, Utica, will be determined.

MERCY

"Into the Depths of Mercy"

Diocesan Summer Institute

June 4, 2016

Join us as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy with a Diocesan Institute designed to foster a renewed understanding and desire for prayer and the interior life.

- Mass with Bishop Jenky
- Keynote Speakers & Breakout Sessions
- Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Meals, Vendors & More!

Where: Peoria Civic Center

Who: All Catholic school and parish educators, clergy and lay faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Admission & meals provided at no cost.

Parish Registration: Online only!

Go to: cdop.org/depths-of-mercy

Registration is Required to attend

School Registration: Register through OCS

Featuring:



Dan Burke



Dr. Peter Howard



Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC



Sr. M. Benedicta Bourke, FSGM



Fr. Adam Cesarek

Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria / Questions? (309) 671-1550

Corpus Christi procession set at motherhouse

EAST PEORIA — The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis are planning a procession on the motherhouse grounds for next Sunday, May 29, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. It will begin at 2 p.m.

The annual event includes hymns, a Scripture reading, prayer and Benediction at the community's outdoor altars and at the altar in the main chapel at 1175 St. Francis Lane. Refreshments will be available after the Corpus Christi procession.

People are welcome to join the Franciscans for quiet prayer and adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament after 10 a.m. until the procession starts.

- Msgr. Charles J. Beebe, P.A. - Educator, pastor, and longtime guide of diaconate program

ROANOKE — As a young boy growing up in Lacon, Msgr. Charles Beebe felt a calling to the priesthood. His father, Joseph, thought that would be a difficult path and suggested he consider becoming a dentist like his uncle on the East Coast.

Though for a few years, when asked what he wanted to be, he would respond a priest or a dentist, “I had no intention of ever becoming a dentist,” said Msgr. Beebe.

Msgr. Beebe’s father died from heart failure when his only child was in ninth grade at Mid-County Junior High. In the moments before his death, he told his son: “You are going to be a priest. Pray for me.”

“His eyes sparkled, he looked ahead, and said ‘Isn’t it beautiful?’ And then he died,” recalled Msgr. Beebe.

His father’s deathbed assurance would come true, and in a big way.

Msgr. Beebe, 71, is set to transition to senior status next month after a 46-year priestly career that included two decades in high school education, two decades of guiding the formation of the diocese’s permanent deacons, and various parish duties capped by the last 13 years as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke, and St. John Parish, Benson.

It has been a priesthood that, in 2011, was recognized as among the Diocese of Peoria’s historic greats when Msgr. Beebe was awarded the rare title of protonotary apostolic, the highest level of monsignor.

“I was very humbled by that,” said Msgr. Beebe, recalling that among the few diocesan recipients of that honor were two priests he greatly admired — the late Msgr. George Carton and Msgr. James Campbell.

“I would never compare myself to either one,” he told The Catholic Post.

Msgr. Beebe’s priesthood will be celebrated once again with a retirement reception planned for Saturday, June 4, after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Roanoke. The two-hour reception will take place in the parish hall.

PRIESTLY LIFE SHAPED BY GOD’S HAND

In a recent interview, Msgr. Beebe reflected on the paths his life has taken, some of which, like teaching, were planned — “I took every education course to prepare for when the opportunity arrived” — and others that could only be shaped by the hand of God.

Such reflection leads to an understanding that “we really need to trust in our life that God does have a purpose and a plan for us,” he said. “If we trust in it and we try to do his will every day, and we walk with him in faith, he’s going to lead us in the right way, even if at times we don’t understand.”

The right way for Msgr. Beebe was clear after he attended a pre-seminary retreat at St. Bede Academy at the suggestion of his boyhood pastor in Lacon, Father Charles Clifford.

“I fell in love with St. Bede immediately,” said Msgr. Beebe. Just months after his father’s death, he transferred from Mid-County to St. Bede for his sophomore year. He credits a benefactor from Lacon for making the move financially possible, as well as his mother, Marion, who took on work as a clerk with the Farm Bureau.

He would continue preparing for the priesthood at St. Bede Junior College and then Benedictine-run Immaculate Conception College and Seminary in Conception, Missouri, from which he earned a master’s degree in theology.

Following ordination on June 6, 1970, he served as assistant at St. Bernard Parish, Peoria, and St. Joseph Parish, Pekin. In 1974, he applied for a faculty position at Spalding



Msgr. Charles Beebe, P.A., stands on the steps of the former Spalding Institute in Peoria, where he formerly taught and chaired the religion department. The building is now part of the diocese’s Spalding Pastoral Center and serves as the home for Cursillo and Teens Encounter Christ.

Institute and the Academy of Our Lady. He would eventually chair the religion department and, after obtaining a master’s in educational administration from Bradley University in Peoria, he became administrative assistant, including through the merger of the schools with Bergan High School in the late 1980s to form Peoria Notre Dame.

Msgr. Beebe later would serve in the dual roles of pastor of Sacre Coeur Parish in Creve Coeur and principal of its parish school.

PRIDE, JOY IN DIOCESE’S DEACONS

While teaching full-time, Msgr. Beebe also assisted at area parishes, including a decade-long relationship with Immaculate Conception Parish in Manito, which he considers “one of the great graces of my life.” He formed a close friendship with Deacon Dennis Woiwode, one of the pioneers in the diocese’s permanent diaconate program, and began planning many of the deacon community’s liturgies. When, in 1993, Bishop John J. Myers needed to appoint a new episcopal vicar for the permanent diaconate, Deacon Woiwode recommended Msgr. Beebe.

He would guide the program for the next 19 years.

“The majority of the deacons functioning in the Diocese of Peoria today, I formed,” said Msgr. Beebe. “I’m very proud of them all,” pointing to the “wonderful things that are happening because of the diaconate in our diocese that would not be happening without them.”

While administering the diaconate program, Msgr. Beebe also served as pastor of St. Jude Parish in Peoria from 1993 to 1999, overseeing the building of the first educational wing of what is now St. Jude School. He was named a prelate of honor with the title of monsignor in 1993.

He was pastor of St. Philomena Parish in Peoria from 1999 until his appointment to Roanoke and Benson in 2003.

THREE TO SERVE

The three priests of the Diocese of Peoria who have served as parochial vicars, Father Donald R. Henderson, CSC, have given a combined 147 years of service in Catholic school teaching and administration. They were classmates and were ordained together in 1970.

The Catholic Post joins Catholics around the Diocese for their example and service to Christ, and wishing them proud to share their stories. — *Text and photos by T...*

- Father Donald R. Henderson - Brought Christ to those he served in varied assignments

The news that Father Donald Henderson has been granted senior status will make Catholics in at least 20 parishes around the Diocese of Peoria fondly recall his time with them.

“I’ve had many, many parish assignments,” acknowledged Father Henderson, 72, who also served on the faculties of Catholic high schools in Peoria and Danville during his 46 years of active priesthood.

“I’ve always tried to be obedient to what the bishop asked,” he said, noting that in most cases he was sent to new assignments to fulfill certain needs at the time.

Serving in both rural and city parishes — including the last year as parochial vicar of three faith communities in the heart of Peoria (St. Mary’s Cathedral, Sacred Heart, and St. Bernard) — has given Father Henderson a rare perspective on Catholic life across the Diocese of Peoria.

“It’s amazing how similar the large and rural parishes are to one another,” he told The Catholic Post in an interview from the offices of Sacred Heart Church in downtown Peoria. While differences in size mean a busier life for priests in larger parishes, the common bond is the celebration of the sacraments — which is where Father Henderson found his greatest joy.

“That is what we were called to do, above all,” said Father Henderson of bringing the life of grace into Catholics from infancy to preparation for death. “To be present, and bring Christ to them,” especially the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, is “spiritually extremely fulfilling.”

FOUND HIS PLACE IN SEMINARY

Like his priestly career, Father Henderson’s early life had its share of transitions. His family lived in three different Peoria parishes — St. Mark, St. Philomena, and St. Vincent. After graduating from Spalding Institute, Father Henderson enrolled in Regis College in Denver to study business administration.

A series of tests showed he was more suited to be an attorney, so he transferred to Marquette University in Milwaukee for its pre-law curriculum.

“I didn’t care for that either,” he said. But while at Marquette, the thought of priesthood “became overpowering.” A visit with Msgr. George Carton, then vocation director, led him to enroll at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri. But even then, uncertainty remained.

“When my parents drove me out I told them, ‘You need to get a motel in the nearby town because tomorrow I may be calling to say ‘pick me up and take me home again,’” he recalled.

Father Henderson never made that call.

NIOR STATUS

...e been granted senior status by Bishop Daniel R. ...vice. Their stories have similarities, including early ...n. Msgr. Beebe and Father Henderson were semi- ...
...ese of Peoria in congratulating and thanking them ...them many happy years in retirement. We are ...om Dermody



Father Donald Henderson is shown in the sanctuary of Sacred Heart Church in downtown Peoria.

"I fell in love with it right away," he said of the Benedictine-run seminary. "I found a home and the peace that I was looking for."

He completed his preparation for the priesthood in the exciting, yet uncertain period following the Second Vatican Council and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria on June 6, 1970.

FULFILLMENT IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

He served as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral, and told Bishop Edward W. O'Rourke he was looking for more work. The bishop said he should become a full-time teacher at nearby Spalding Institute.

"I said 'Bishop, that's the one thing I don't want to do.' But out of obedience, he applied and 'what a blessing it was, because I did not realize how much I would love teaching and especially youth. That really energized me as a young priest.'"

He would teach for eight years at Spalding, then serve as chaplain of Schlarman High School in Danville for three years, calling them "some of my happiest days."

"It's amazing that something you have no interest in, and don't think you'd be any good at, the Holy Spirit changes

- Msgr. James J. Swaner -

All but 10 years of priestly ministry in LaSalle County

"Goodbyes always make my throat hurt . . . I need more hellos." — **Charlie Brown, from the comic strip "Peanuts"**

UTICA — Msgr. James Swaner, a Charlie Brown fan and collector, won't have to say goodbye when he ends his 13 years as pastor of St. Mary Parish here by transitioning to senior status on June 8 after 55 years of active priesthood.

He's simply moving across the street.

"It had been for sale for about seven or eight months," said Msgr. Swaner of the white, frame house directly across Division Street from the St. Mary rectory. "I woke up one morning and said to myself, 'God must be telling me something,' so I put in an offer and they accepted it."

And so the long relationship between the 80-year-old priest and LaSalle County continues. All but 10 of Msgr. Swaner's years of priestly service have been in LaSalle County — including periods as teacher and principal of Marquette High School in Ottawa; parochial vicar at St. Columba, Ottawa; and as pastor of faith communities in Eagle Township, Kangley, Leonore, LaSalle (Resurrection), Dimmick, Wenona, Lostant and Utica.

"I've got them married and buried all over this county," he told The Catholic Post in a May 10 interview. His only assignment outside the region was as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Washington, from 1994 to 2003, including a brief time as administrator of St. Luke, Eureka.

The many who have benefited from Msgr. Swaner's priesthood are invited to say "hello" and "thank you" during events in Utica on Sunday, May 29, beginning with 10 a.m. Mass at St. Mary Church. A celebration of his ordination jubilee and retirement will follow at an open house at the Utica Knights of Columbus Hall from noon to 3 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

"NOTHING EVER HAPPENS BY CHANCE"

Born in Chicago and raised in Berwyn, Msgr. Swaner spent much of his childhood around St. Odilo's Church, where he attended the parish elementary school and was an altar server. His mother worked part time at the rectory and his father helped cut grass on parish property and cleaned the church.

His high school studies were at Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago. He then attended St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein for two years until a "shoe-string uncle" — a family friend, Father Bill Kwinn, who was pastor of St. Anne Parish in Spring Valley — convinced him to consider studying for the Diocese of Peoria.

"He finally wore me down," recalled Msgr. Swaner. "And Peoria adopted me."

He completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and was ordained by Bishop John B. Franz on May 28, 1961.

He was assigned to St. Columba Parish in Ottawa with teaching duties (Latin and social studies) at Marquette High School. When the Sisters of Mercy were on the verge of withdrawing from the school, Msgr. Swaner began taking night classes and summer courses at Loyola University in Chicago. He was named principal of Marquette in 1969, and served for two years until he was hospitalized with what was later diagnosed as a heart attack at age 36.

One of Msgr. Swaner's life mottos is "Nothing ever happens by chance" — he repeated it at least a half-dozen times as he recalled his experiences during the recent interview



Msgr. Swaner poses with a stack of bulletins from his 13 years as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Utica. He has written a weekly bulletin column for the past 34 years.

in his rectory — and the hospitalization led to his reassignment at the rural parishes of Annunciation in Eagle Township and St. Mary, Kangley, in 1973. Four years later, he took on additional duties at Sts. Peter and Paul, Leonore.

He would be a pastor for the rest of his priestly career, but he found a way for his teaching gifts to be put to use as well.

"NEVER STOP STUDYING YOUR FAITH"

"For the last 34 years I've been writing a weekly column for the bulletin," he said, displaying a stack of bulletins from the last 13 years at St. Mary's that rose nearly two-feet high off a table. "I've written about everything under the sun," he said, from answering parishioners' questions about the faith to series of columns on topics ranging from annulments, to the Holy Land, and his own vocation story. Whether the topic was profound or lighthearted, the goal was always to teach in ways all parishioners could understand.

Writing for the April 17 bulletin, Msgr. Swaner estimated he has written 1,600 such columns, starting in December of 1984, his first days at Resurrection Parish in LaSalle.

"These columns have helped me grow and continue to study and learn about my faith," he wrote. "Please, never stop growing or studying your faith," he pleaded.

In recent years, Msgr. Swaner has found new joy in teaching religion part time at Holy Family School in Oglesby. Last month he presided at confirmation ceremonies at that parish, managing to even weave a few Charlie Brown stories into his homily.

Msgr. Swaner was slowed by a second heart attack two years ago. He now goes for regular physical therapy in Peru.

"I think 80 is the time" to step down, he said, though he hopes to continue to teach in Oglesby. A car enthusiast, he also will tinker with his hobby car — a 2002 Ford Focus station wagon — as well as do some gardening.

The choice to reside in Utica was a natural one for the history buff. St. Mary's is the oldest parish in the diocese,

This page is sponsored by a Rantoul parishioner for all men and women in military service, both living and deceased

Sister Margaret (John Francis) Conroy, OP

Longtime educator served at St. Bernard, Peoria

SINSINAWA, Wis. — A funeral Mass was offered May 17 in Queen of the Rosary Chapel here for Sister Margaret Conroy, OP. Burial followed in the Motherhouse Cemetery.



Sister Marge

Sister Marge died on May 10, 2016, at St. Dominic Villa in Sinsinawa. She was 84.

The daughter of James and Frances (Hunt)

Conroy, Sister Marge was born on Sept. 2, 1931, in Chicago. She made her first profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican on Aug. 5, 1951, taking the name John Francis, and her final profession three years later.

She taught or served as an educational

administrator for 57 years in Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served at St. Bernard School in Peoria from 1951 to 1953.

In addition to her parents, Sister Marge was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Huth, and six brothers, W.J. Conroy, Francis Conroy, J.J. Conroy, Father James Conroy, John Conroy and Don Conroy. She is survived by one brother, Edmund Conroy, and her Dominican Sisters, with whom she shared life for 64 years.

Memorials may be sent to the Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824-9701 or made by visiting sinsinawa.org and clicking on "Donate Now" and then "Honor and Memorial Gift."

Francis R. Mack

Father of Msgr. Thomas Mack

REYNOLDS — A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Patrick Church in Andalusia on May 16 for Francis R. Mack, 91, the father of four, including Msgr.



Mack

Thomas Mack, pastor of faith communities in Monmouth, Alexis, and Raritan and diocesan episcopal vicar for rural life.

Mr. Mack died on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at his home in Reynolds. Burial with military honors was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Preemption Township.

Born Jan. 21, 1925, in Preemption to Michael and Ethel Wheelan Mack, he married Donna M. Farwell on July 27, 1951, at St. Catherine Church, Aledo.

He farmed for many years in the Reyn-

olds and Preemption area and retired as postmaster in Preemption after 30 years of postal service.

A member of St. Patrick Parish in Andalusia, he was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict and participated in an Honor Flight in 2012.

In addition to his wife, Donna, and Msgr. Mack, he is survived by daughters Connie McKinley and Carol (Jason) Lewis, both of Rock Island, and Lori (Don) Estep, Hope Mills, North Carolina; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. Patrick Parish or to Immaculate Conception School, Monmouth. Notes of condolence may be sent to Msgr. Mack at Immaculate Conception Church, 210 W. Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462.



ROCK ISLAND

Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum
2901 12th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 788-6197
www.calvarycemeteryri.com



PEORIA

St. Mary Cemetery 421 N. Sterling
St. Joseph Cemetery 2105 W. Heading
Resurrection Cemetery & Mausoleum
7519 N. Allen Rd. (309) 691-5889
www.ccapeo.org • Here for you now and forever



EAST MOLINE

St. Mary Cemetery & Mausoleum
2301 Third St.
East Moline, IL 61244
(309) 755-3672



GALESBURG

St. Joseph
Cemetery Association
273 S. Prairie St.
Galesburg, IL 61401

Mass at 9 a.m.

Memorial Day

Remembering Those Who Served

This Memorial Day, more than one thousand Catholic cemeteries across our country will recognize the sacrifice made by those who died defending our freedom. "Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to our Heroes" is a program, developed by the Catholic Cemetery Conference, to honor the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces — those who have served in the past, those who gave their lives for our freedoms, those who are serving today, and those who will serve in the future.

We give thanks to God for these heroes and for the freedom we enjoy, not only on Memorial Day weekend, but every day. Our hope is that more people will join us, especially in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, to celebrate Memorial Day Mass to remember those who contributed to the preservation of the liberty and freedom we all enjoy and cherish today, and to pray for them and all those in our Catholic cemeteries. This Memorial Day, we encourage every American to take time in remembrance of and with heartfelt gratitude for our nation's heroes.

Andrew P. Schafer, K.H.S., CCCE President,
Catholic Cemetery Conference Executive Director
Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Newark

BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington-Normal Catholic Cemetery Association
St. Mary Cemetery
Holy Cross Cemetery
711 N. Main St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309) 829-2197



LINCOLN

Holy Cross Cemetery
St. Mary Cemetery
316 S. Logan St.
Lincoln, IL 62656



PONTIAC

St. Mary Cemetery
17219 Billet Rd.
PO Box 374
Pontiac, IL
(815) 844-7683



Mail to: Catholic Cemeteries,
P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656 CP5/22/16

Please furnish information on _____
Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Parish _____

This page is sponsored by the generosity of an anonymous donor from Geneseo

Pray for our faithful departed

The following death notices were taken from area daily newspapers dated April 29 to May 12, 2016. The notices list name, age, parish, and date of death.

This list may not be complete for many reasons. Only persons whose funeral Masses took place in a Catholic church within the Diocese of Peoria are normally listed.

Prayers for those on this list, their families, and all the faith-

ful departed are encouraged.

ATKINSON: James L. Billiet, 67, St. Anthony, May 7

BLOOMINGTON: Elizabeth Murphy, 90, St. Mary, May 10; **Dr. Richard A. Leese**, 61, Holy Trinity, May 8

BRIMFIELD: Barbara A. Wyman, 75, St. Joseph, April 30

CANTON: Anne Cordray-Miller, 94, St. Michael (St. David), May 9, former president of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. Mary, Canton

CARLOCK: David Anthony Sev-

erino, 64, St. Patrick (Bloomington), May 8

CHAMPAIGN: Robert Louis Goodman Jr., 81, Holy Cross, April 30 in Tampa, Florida

CHILLICOTHE: Mary L. Bireline, 86, St. Edward, May 2; **Clifford J. Langfeld**, 67, St. Edward, April 27

COAL VALLEY: Richard Boens, 84, St. Maria Goretti, May 4

DANVILLE: Robert J. David, 79, St. Paul, May 8

DELAVER: Mary Leigh Naffziger, 88, St. Mary, April 27

EAST MOLINE: Blanche A. Cobert, 98, St. Anne, May 7; **Frances Irene Martin**, 81, St. Pius X, May 4; **Thalia N. "Toots" Mitton**, 97, St. Mary (Hampton), May 4

EAST PEORIA: Stephen M. Wells, 66, St. Monica, May 9

ELMWOOD: Everett "Gene" Shissler, 89, St. Patrick, May 7

FORREST: Ida Lee Grant, 80, St. Andrew (Fairbury), May 10

GALESBURG: Louis "Shorty" Pacheco, 87, St. Patrick, May 5; **George Jeffrey Haworth**, 74, Immaculate Heart of Mary, April 26

HENRY: Patricia S. Brady, 55, St. John XXIII, April 21

KEWANEE: James M. Kursock, 71, St. John (Galva), April 29

LA SALLE: Elizabeth (Marinangeli) Urban, 98, Queen of the Holy Rosary, May 9; **Emily Ann (Kosem) Marchiori**, 94, St. Hyacinth, May 7

MACOMB: Theresa Frances Kipling, 96, St. Paul, May 6 in Betten-

dorf, Iowa; **George Douglas Richbark**, 96, St. Paul, May 6, former grand knight of Knights of Columbus council;

Irene Billeter, 79, St. Paul, May 2

METAMORA: Rose Marie (Kiesewetter) Neff, 88, St. Mary, May 8

MILAN: Russell Gerald Scott, 68, St. Patrick (Andalusia), May 1, first male nurse to graduate from St. Anthony School of Nursing

MOLINE: Carrie I. Mueller, 94, Sacred Heart, May 6; **Mary Jane Hardiek**, 76, Christ the King, May 9;

Aurora Navarro, 85, St. Mary, May 2

MORTON: Edward E. Jennings, 87, St. Mark (Peoria), May 1

OGLESBY: Elizabeth M. (Sioiz)

Hamilton, 97, Holy Family, May 5

OTTAWA: Dorothy (Cunningham) Slovinski, 89, St. Patrick, May 1; **Janet A. Harmon**, 77, St. Patrick, April 30;

Jeanne Marie Hampson, 94, St. Columba, April 26

PEORIA: Walter James Strode, 80,

St. Vincent de Paul, May 9; **Margaret M. Ritter**, 89, St. Vincent de Paul, May 5; **Bona "Joan" Williams Sleever**, 84, St. Vincent de Paul, May 4; **Stacey Ann Tomczyk**, 45, St. Vincent de Paul, April 30; **James E. Highfill Sr.**, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle (Peoria Heights), April 25; **Austin James Gentry**, 19, Holy Family, April 12 in North Las Vegas, Nevada

PERU: Edith M. (Barnardi) Orsini Bozonelos, 81, Queen of the Holy Rosary, May 6; **Jean Charlotte (May) Mattei**, 90, St. Mary, April 25

PONTIAC: Betty F. Lower, 80, St. Mary, April 24, longtime director of adult choir

PRINCETON: Diane "Dodie" Elena, 65, Sacred Heart (Granville), April 28; **Carol Grundman**, 60, St. Louis, April 28, librarian and teacher's aide at St. Louis School for 25 years

PLEASE TURN TO OBITUARIES 15

Knights of
Columbus



Field Mass

**Monday, May 30,
9 a.m.**

Calvary Cemetery,
31st Ave. at 16th St.
Rock Island, Illinois
For further information:
Call 309/788-6197



Calvary Cemetery
2901 12th Street
Rock Island,
309/788-6197

MEMORIAL DAY MASS IN PEORIA

The annual
Memorial Day Mass
will take place on

**Monday,
May 30, 2016
at 9:30 a.m.**

**Msgr. Charles Beebe,
celebrant
in
Resurrection
Mausoleum
Chapel
7519 N. Allen Rd.**

Also, please make a
Memorial Day visit to
St. Joseph and
St. Mary Cemeteries
Here for you now and forever

A meaningful funeral is a personalized funeral, one that is a tribute to the life that's been lived, not the death that's occurred.

Families better cope with the pain of death by involving themselves in the planning of a meaningful tribute to their loved ones.

Serving Catholic Families for 3 generations!

Matthew W. Salmon
M. Timothy Salmon
Michael J. Salmon
Funeral Directors
2416 N. North St.

Peoria, IL 61604 (309) 688-4441

www.wrightandsalmon.com



**We have been honored to serve
your families and loved ones
for over 125 years!**

Wheelan-Dressly
Family of Funeral Homes

Established 1889

3030 7th Ave., Rock Island • (309) 786-5421

204 E 4th Ave., Milan • (309) 756-5513

801 W. Edgington St., Reynolds • (309) 372-8433

CARMODY-FLYNN WILLIAMSBURG FUNERAL HOME

1800 EASTLAND DRIVE, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61704
PHONE (309) 663-1968

SERVING CATHOLIC FAMILIES IN THE
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AREA SINCE 1872



903 W. Custer Ave.
Pontiac
(815) 844-7111

315 E. Vermillion
Odell
(815) 998-2143

**DUFFY • BAIER • SNEDECOR
FUNERAL HOME**

Serving your family's needs with our family values

Richard L. Baier, Matthew T. Snedecor Directors/Owners

This page is sponsored by Thom Krylowicz of St. Mary Parish in Canton

DEADLINES

Deadlines for Around the Diocese are Friday, May 27, for the issue of June 5; Friday, June 10, for the issue of June 19; Friday, June 24, for the issue of July 3; Friday, July 8, for the issue of July 17; and Friday, July 22, for the issue of July 31.

Items may be sent by email to cathpost@cdop.org or mailed to The Catholic Post, P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL 61656.

Anniversary announcements are also welcome for those couples celebrating 50, 60 or more years of marriage (in five-year increments). To receive a form, contact Jennifer Willems at jwillems@cdop.org or (800) 340-5630.

DALZELL

CHICKEN DINNER: St. Thomas More Church, 302 Chestnut St., will host a chicken dinner on Sunday, May 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall. The menu includes baked or fried chicken, salad, spaghetti, bread, dessert and a beverage. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 6 to 12. Children 5 and younger eat for free. Carry-outs will be available for \$10.

EAST PEORIA

ULTREYA: Ron and Maureen Thorne will be the speakers for an Ultreya planned for Saturday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at St. Monica Church, 303 Campanile Drive.

MARSEILLES

FIRST COMMUNION: Kaden Araujo, Abigail Churchill, Mary Diss, Arianna Graves, Cassidi Larson, Christian Solis, Irene Vicich, Cayden Wood and Cayden Woodyer received their First Communion at a Mass celebrated by Father Anthony Ego, pastor, and Father Jeremy Dixon on May 1 at St. Joseph Church. A May Crowning was also held. The following Wednesday, students received report cards and awards at the last religious education class of the year.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY: St. Joseph's Holy Name Society is planning a Mass for deceased members on Sunday, May 29, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, 200 Broadway St. Doughnuts and milk, juice and coffee will be available in the parish hall after Mass, and a meeting will be held to plan a fundraiser. The Holy Name Society hosted a Mass for its living members on May 6.

OGLESBY

FIRST COMMUNION: Twenty-three children received their First Communion at a Mass celebrated May 1 by Father Gary Blake, pastor, at Holy Family Church. They are: Ava Balestri, Angela Bejarano, Landon Boggio, Braylin Bond, Claire Boudreau, Sophia Chiu, Mallory Clark, Christopher Elnicki, Gino Ferrari, Harrison Fess, Morgan Ficek, Brody Hahn, Cade Kilmartin, Caydence Luke, Alec Mandujano, Trajan Raffety, Carson Riva, Brianna Ruppert, Miley Sadnick, Rowan Tomsha, Haley Torchia, Emerson Vasquez and Bolander Weilt. The children were instructed by Angie Becker and Doreen Anderson.

PEORIA

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY: The Peoria Circle of the Christ Child Society of Central Illinois will meet on Wednesday, June 1, and Monday, June 20, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the lower level of the Family Resources Center, 415 N.E. Monroe. All circles are welcome to attend the meetings whenever possible. For more information, call Paula at (309) 688-2858.

PERU

FIRST COMMUNION: Anna Riva,

PONTIAC

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY: The Pontiac

Emmy Sipovic, Ella Mudge, Trinity Mojica, Addison Dziarnowski, Alyssa Bokus, Nicholas Hachenberger, Konnor Burkie-wicz, Collin Kalsto and Armani Mason received their First Communion during a Mass celebrated May 1 by Msgr. J. Brian Rejsek at St. Valentine Church.

FAMILY CIRCLE CLUB: The Family Circle Club of St. Valentine and St. Mary churches met May 10. Greg Oseland thanked the club for the roses distributed at the parishes on Mother's Day. This project was organized by Nicole Molina of Illinois Valley Citizens for Life. Current club officers were re-elected for the coming year. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 13.

CEMETERY FUNDRAISER: St. Joseph's Cemetery will host a "gold party" on Wednesday, June 8, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Halle, 1929 Fifth St. Gold, silver and precious metals that are no longer needed will be accepted and sold. Proceeds will be used for maintenance and beautification of the cemetery, located on Route 6 in Webster Park.

Circle of the Christ Child Society of Central Illinois will meet on Thursdays, June 9 and 23, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary Church, 501 N. Chicago St. For more information, call Shari Paris at (815) 419-8620.

RANSOM

FIRST COMMUNION: Riley Stevens and Cody Taylor received their First Communion at Mass on May 1 at St. Patrick Church. They were also among the children in attendance for a May Crowning. Flowers were provided by the Altar and Rosary Society and Clara Ross, a college student, crowned the Blessed Virgin Mary.

RANTOUL

FOOD DRIVE: The Rantoul Knights of Columbus, Council No. 4450, collected 723 pounds of food and \$545 during their "40 Cans/40 Days" Lenten Food Drive. Donations of food and cash were received at St. Malachy Church and School and the Knights of Columbus Hall, all in Rantoul, and St. Elizabeth Church in Thomasboro, and were delivered to food pantries in Rantoul and Ludlow.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL VACANCY

The High School of Saint Thomas More, a Catholic diocesan co-ed high school of 300, in Champaign, Illinois, is seeking a qualified person for the position of principal beginning July 1, 2016. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have secondary school administrative experience, and hold at least a Master's Degree. Information about the position and the application materials are available at the Diocese of Peoria website www.cdop.org – click on *Catholic Education*, highlight *School Openings*. Information about the school is available on the Saint Thomas More High School website. The application deadline is May 25, 2016. Interviews will take place in late May/early June. Interested individuals may also call the Office of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Peoria, at (309) 671-1550 to obtain materials.

GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL VACANCIES

The following schools are seeking applications for the position of principal:

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, East Moline
- Costa Catholic School, Galesburg
- St. Thomas School, Philo
- Jordan Catholic, Rock Island

Applicants must be a practicing Catholic, possess a Master's Degree and a proper administrative certificate/licensure. For application procedure and materials, interested candidates should visit www.cdop.org, highlight *Catholic Education*, highlight *School Openings*. Interested individuals may also call the Office of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Peoria, at (309) 671-1550 to obtain materials.

Director of Music/
choir coordinator

The parish of Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet, Illinois is seeking a part-time Director of Music/choir coordinator. Salary commensurate with experience/education.

Contact parish office

Women's Care
Center Counselor

Women's Care Center in Peoria is now hiring a full-time client focused counselor. Looking for a pro-family, pro-life, mission focused woman, along with a hospitable and upbeat personality. Will train. Spanish speaking skills are a plus.

Please send your resume to:
Women's Care Center Peoria,
7319 N. University St.,
Peoria, IL 61614-1210 or via email:
jpitcher1791@gmail.com
ATTN: Jody Pitcher,
Executive Director

MARKETPLACE

 <p>Aeschliman <i>Painting & Decorating</i> •Interior & Exterior Painting •Drywall & Plaster Repairs <i>Material Workmanship Guaranteed!</i> <i>Ask about our residential discounts.</i> 309-692-5110</p>	<p>MID-STATE ACOUSTICS & SOUND <i>Professional Sound Systems • Acoustical Analysis</i> DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SERVICE John O. Chan Phone: 309-678-2994</p>	<p>Peoria Jewelry Buyers Buying watches, rings and diamonds as well as broken, unwanted and antique jewelry. Call: (309) 340-5410</p>
<p>St. Bernadette Catholic Radio 94.3 FM Peoria</p>	 <p>North-And. Co., Inc. Risk Management <i>"The Complete Package"</i> David North (309) 525-1251 Jim Anderson (309) 525-1253</p>	 <p>Dorian B. LaSaine Attorney at Law <i>Protecting & Enforcing your rights since 1977</i> Former Asst. State's Attorney Former Adm. Law Judge 309-674-6331 dlsaine@aol.com</p>

This page is sponsored by Fred Hafner of Normal in memory of the Hafner and Smith families



Catholic seniors from five parishes pray at Holy Door in Champaign

The Holy Door of Mercy at St. John's Catholic Chapel at the University of Illinois in Champaign was the gathering place for about 35 people from Senior and Divine Mercy groups representing five area parishes. The pilgrims attended the noon Mass there on May 3, ate lunch at the Newman Center, took a tour of the facilities and then prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the Holy Door. Father Joseph Baker, parochial vicar at St. Patrick in Urbana and St. Mary in Champaign, who celebrated the Mass, explained some of the history and meaning of Holy Doors. The door at St. John's Catholic Chapel is one of several regional pilgrimage sites established in the Diocese of Peoria for the Holy Year of Mercy. Parishes represented in the May 3 group included St. Patrick, Urbana; St. Matthew and Holy Cross, Champaign; Our Lady of Lourdes, Gibson City; and 40 Martyrs, Tuscola. *Provided photo*



May Crowning at St. Valentine, Peru

Addison Dziarnowski crowns the Blessed Mother at a May Crowning at St. Valentine, Peru, on Mother's Day, May 8. A reception followed in the church's parish cafe. May is a month of special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Provided photo/Christine Huffman*

MSGR. SWANER

FROM 11

tracing its roots to a 1675 visit to the area by Father Jacques Marquette, S.J. A large Marquette memorial stands on the parish grounds. In addition, Msgr. Swaner's parents and a sister are buried in nearby Ottawa. The St. Mary Parish religious education center has been named in his honor.

"It's been an interesting 55 years," he told The Catholic Post, including overseeing improvement projects at various parishes, service as vicar of the Pekin vicariate, and guiding the Utica parish after the tragic 2004 tornado that ripped through the community, leaving eight dead and damaging the century-old church.

To those considering following in his footsteps, he said "if you've got the slightest inkling God may be calling you to the priesthood, do it. Try the seminary. God will let you know."

And whatever happens, he assures, it won't be by chance.

KNOW SOMEONE WITH A STORY? The Catholic Post is committed to sharing one in-depth story of faith in each issue on our "People" page. Do you know someone whose life of faith inspires others? Someone who serves others in a unique way? Contact our newsroom at 1-800-340-5630 or email cathpost@cdop.org.

MSGR. BEEBE

FROM 10

"What has been wonderful about the people of Roanoke is because of the size of the parish and the involvement they have in parish life, it left me the ability to be pastor and also to work full time in the diaconate," said Msgr. Beebe, who during the course of his priesthood also served as vicar of the Pekin Vicariate, as a secretary on the presbyteral council, and on the diocesan education commission.

Through it all, Msgr. Beebe has maintained a love of

liturgy instilled in him during his Benedictine seminary days. He has long been a Benedictine oblate, and "I've tried to live out my oblation in education and being as devoted to liturgy as I can."

In retirement, Msgr. Beebe will reside in a condo in north Peoria and continue daily walking and water aerobics to maintain his health. Other than continuing to make rosaries, a hobby he began while at St. Jude, he has no set plans.

"Let it unfold," he says. "I'm more than happy to help out in the area when I can."

FATHER HENDERSON

FROM 11

that around and you are led into an area and find it to be wholly fulfilling," said Father Henderson.

Father Henderson left Schlarman in 1983 and began long service as a parish priest in a variety of assignments.

The parishes he has served as parochial vicar also include St. Paul, Danville; St. Matthew and Holy Cross, Champaign; and St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria.

He has been pastor of the following parishes: St. Paul, Danville; St. Theresa, Earlville; St. Anthony and St. Casimir, Streator; St. Mary, Delavan, and St. Joseph, Hopedale; St. Anthony and Sts. Peter and Paul, Spring Valley; St. Mary, El Paso, and St. Patrick, Minonk; St. Philomena, Peoria; and St. Mary, Princeville.

Father Henderson also served as administrator of St. Mark, Peoria, had a brief stint on the faculty of Peoria Notre Dame High School, and served on the diocese's presbyteral council.

"The difficulty is you bonded with the people and loved the people," said Father Henderson of his many moves. "You are just

beginning to feel really comfortable in working with them and then you pick up and move to a totally new assignment. It required a lot of adjustments and flexibility."

There was one constant, however — Father Henderson's deep prayer life.

He has tried to live and model the self-sacrifice of Christ that flows from the Eucharist, finding special strength in the Liturgy of the Hours so emphasized by the Benedictines in his seminary days.

And that is the advice he passes on to young priests and seminarians.

"Remain focused on Christ," he said. "Love the celebration of the sacraments and the times of prayer when you are in the presence of the Lord and aware of his presence with you. That benefits you personally and spiritually, but then you're able to bring that to the people you're serving so they can love the Lord and desire to serve him better."

Father Henderson is looking forward to a more relaxed schedule in retirement. He will reside in a rented home on Peoria's north side.

OBITUARIES

FROM 13

ROCK ISLAND: Charles W. Goodwin, 81, St. Pius X, May 4; **Roger J. Freiburg Sr.**, 92, St. Pius X, April 28; **Shirley M. Meiresonne**, 68, St. Pius X, Nov. 26, 2015 in Webster, Texas

SENECA: William Fiedler, St. Patrick, April 15, in San Antonio, Texas

STREATOR: Esther R. "Tessie" Safarczyk, 86, St. Michael the Archangel, May 5; **Raymond L. Phillis**, 78, St. Michael the Archangel, May

4; **Rita A. Green**, 87, St. Michael the Archangel, May 1; **Mary Ellen Oben-hin**, 87, St. Michael the Archangel, April 26, secular Franciscan, sacred artist, made thousands of rosaries for the missions

TOLONO: Dennis M. Bates, 57, St. Patrick

WYANET: Heidi Ann Jeffery, 43, St. Louis (Princeton), April 29

WYOMING: Michael Leo Johnston, 69, St. Dominic, May 8; **Timothy J. Green**, 58, St. Dominic, May 5

Send a note to retiring priests

Cards and notes may be sent to the retiring priests at the following addresses until June 8:

● Msgr. Charles Beebe, St. Joseph Church, 508 W. Randolph St., Roanoke, IL 61561

● Father Donald Henderson, Sacred Heart Church, 504 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602

● Msgr. James Swaner, St. Mary Church, 303 Division St., PO Box 159, Utica, IL 61373

Editorial

Graduates should heed jubilarians' advice

Inside this feature-packed issue of The Catholic Post is hidden a wonderful commencement speech for Catholics graduating from high schools and colleges this month. Our special section profiling priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women marking major anniversary years contains a treasure trove of advice.

We hope all of our readers will dig for it and spend time getting to know and recognize these heroes of our diocese. Meanwhile, here are a few nuggets of wisdom we've culled from their quotes.

"Keep asking yourself, 'What is God asking me to do with my life?' Think of your gifts and how you can use them for the Lord's service." — Sister Dominic Dybel, OSF, who formerly taught at Peru Catholic School.

"God works with us. If only people realized that, if we only put our trust in him. You've got to persevere." — Msgr. Ernie Pizzamiglio, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Galesburg

"Be faithful to daily prayer." — Sister Rita Louise Huebner, CSJ, former teacher at St. Mary's Cathedral School, Peoria

"Do not be afraid! God will give you whatever graces you need to respond to and follow His call in your life." — Sister M. Margaret Gibbons, FSGM, former teacher at St. Matthew School, Champaign

We will add some advice of our own. "Always say thank you." We encourage readers to do just that by selecting a jubilarian or a retiring priest featured in this issue and sending a note of appreciation. Their addresses are provided. — *Thomas J. Dermody*



Holy Spirit helps us live as brothers, sisters

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The gift of the Holy Spirit gives Christians the grace they need to conduct themselves as children of God and brothers and sisters to each other, Pope Francis said on Pentecost.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christians are freed from "the condition of being orphans into which we had fallen" because of sin, the pope said May 15 during Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

"We were made to be God's children," he said. "It is in our DNA."

Looking around, the pope said, one can see signs of how many people really do feel like orphans: feeling alone and sad even when surrounded by people; trying to free oneself from God; "spiritual illiteracy," which makes people incapable of praying; and in the difficulty people have in seeing others as brothers and sisters, children of the same God.

"Strengthening our relationship of belonging to the Lord Jesus, the Spirit enables us to enter into a new experience of fraternity," Pope Francis said. "By means of our universal brother — Jesus — we can relate to one another in a new way; no longer as orphans, but rather as children of the same good and merciful Father. And this changes everything!"

We can't earn God's love

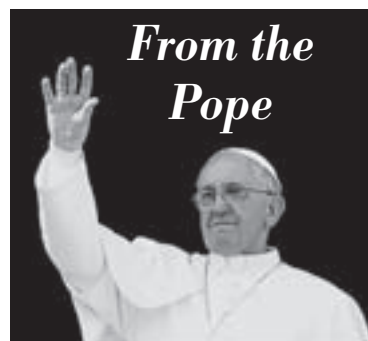
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Salvation has nothing to do with the tidy business of bartering — earning God's love in return for good behavior, Pope Francis said.

"If you do well you get a reward; if you do poorly you get punished. This is not the logic of Jesus," whose ability to love and forgive is unconditional and infinite, the pope said May 11 during his weekly general audience.

The pope reflected on the Gospel parable of the prodigal son, which teaches everyone is a child of God not because of one's merits or actions, but because of God's "unchanging love and ready forgiveness."

The parable also teaches people to open their hearts to be merciful like the father, and it offers encouragement to parents whose child has strayed onto dangerous paths, to pastors and catechists who wonder if their efforts are in vain, and to prisoners and all people who have made mistakes and believe they do not deserve forgiveness and mercy.

No matter what happens, "I must not forget that I will



never stop being a child of God, of a father who loves me and waits for my return. Even in the ugliest of situations in life, God waits for me, God wants to embrace me, God expects me."

God always seeks those who stray

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — There is no such thing as a soul that is lost forever, only people who are waiting to be found, Pope Francis said.

God is not part of humanity's "throwaway culture" and does not shut out the sinner and those most in need, the pope said May 4 during his weekly general audience.

Because of his immense love for everyone, God takes the illogical step of leaving his faithful flock behind in the harsh desert to seek out the one who has gone missing, he told those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The pope reflected on the Gospel parable of the good shepherd, which, he said, reflects Jesus' concern for sinners and God's commitment to never give up on anyone.

Jesus uses the parable to explain how "his closeness to sinners must not scandalize, but, on the contrary, encourage everyone to seriously reflect on how we live our faith," the pope said.

An ocean of tears calls for mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The tears shed by men, women and children around the world each day cry out for mercy, compassion and consolation, Pope Francis said during a special Year of Mercy prayer service for those who weep.

"How many tears are shed every second in our world; each is different but together they form, as it were, an ocean of desolation that cries out for mercy, compassion and consolation," the pope said May 5 as he led the prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica.

The service included special prayers for persecuted Christians; those in imminent danger of death; people enslaved; victims of war and terrorism; abused children; the seriously ill and their caregivers; the unjustly accused and prisoners; those who feel abandoned, depressed and desperate; people suffering from addictions; families who have experienced a miscarriage or the death of a child; and those who have lost or been forced to leave their homes, families or jobs.

May days shine like a beacon against the darkness of disbelief

On some sun-drenched afternoon when the wind has died away to a gentle sigh and May spreads her green blanket over our woods and fields, there comes temptation to conclude that this is about as good as it gets.

It is a natural and perhaps blessed response to this amazing display of nature's treasure against which the petty concerns of the day fade into a proper insignificance. For in this great changing of the seasons is a visual parable that mirrors our own changing journey from spring to summer, from what is and what is to come.

This is the inescapable voyage on which we all are embarked. There is no other way. What we have is a truly life-changing choice. Will we believe in the impending reality of a new and endless life, or do we follow this puzzle that relentlessly asks the question, what next?



It Seems To Me

Jerry Klein

For those who do not believe, all this has to be a mystery, a series of questions with no answers. If this is a scam, who is the scammer? If this is a joke, what's the punch line? If this is a lottery which nobody wins, why play? Is this some kind of pointless existence in which there is neither rhyme nor reason?

The reality is that we all crave the kind of prize that will fatten our wallets and enhance the reputation. We would love to win the Publishers Clearing House millions. But the real prize goes to those among us who have, with their ordinary lives, won heaven. And there will be those who have pursued riches and fame, clutching their useless bags of gold.

We are asked — begged — to believe. As we move into these longest days of our year, these May days shine like a beacon against the darkness of disbelief. This is the time of year when it is easy to believe when Mary, our mother, our "Notre Dame," leads us to the belief that this, after all, is not yet as good as it gets. There is still time for a Mary hymn, to lead us out of doubt, to strengthen our belief. It goes like this:

"Tis the month of our mother, those blessed and beautiful days, when our lips and our spirits are glowing with love and with praise."

It is just a little song, but it could get you to heaven.

JERRY KLEIN is an author and longtime fine arts critic in the secular press. He lives in Germantown Hills and is a member of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Peoria.

'A word to fiancés': the Francis effect on wedding planning

It had been a long Thursday, and Brooke Paris couldn't wait to take off her heels, peel off her contacts and wipe off her makeup. She changed into her pajamas, climbed into bed and opened her MacBook to the pope's new apostolic exhortation.

"Amoris Laetitia" was released two weeks after Brooke's high-school sweetheart, Timothy Foley, had dropped on bended knee in Mary's Garden, the grounds behind the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in D.C. As he proposed the sunset lit the flowering crabapple trees with a soft glow, and a fountain trickled behind them. It was the most easy, joyful "yes" of her life — and it was rooted in a relationship that felt ordained by God.



*Twenty
Something*

Christina
Capecci

"HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE DIFFERENT"

But since that idyllic moment last month, the soon-to-be college graduate had managed to squeeze in just enough wedding-related activity to make her dizzy. She'd bought The

Southern Weddings Planner, ordered sample wedding invitations and conducted a midnight Google into pricing of a couple reception venues. She had doubled over from the sticker shock.

So she took a deep breath and began scrolling through Pope Francis' 264-page document. Within five minutes Brooke found herself in chapter six, in a section titled "Preparing engaged couples for marriage," arrested by these words: "Here let me say a word to fiancés. Have the courage to be different. Don't let yourselves get swallowed up by a society of consumption and empty appearances. What is important is the love you share, strengthened and sanctified by grace. You are capable of opting for a more modest and simple celebration in which love takes precedence over everything else."



Timothy Foley proposes to Brooke Paris, whose dream job is to be a Catholic wedding planner.

Provided photo

"I knew immediately that that was what I was supposed to find at that time," said Brooke, 21, a Virginia native preparing to complete her bachelor's in theology and religious studies from The Catholic University of America. "It was a great reminder that it doesn't matter if my venue is as lavish as my Pinterest boards. There are ways I can save money and still make my reception a celebration of the love Timmy and I share."

The timing of Pope Francis' just-launched reflection to inspire their brand-new engagement was not lost on Brooke. "I think God gives you tools to live out your vocation."

LITURGY IS PINNACLE OF DAY

Brooke is drawing a double value from "Amoris Laeti-

tia" — for her own 2017 nuptials and for the clients she hopes to one day serve in her dream job as a Catholic wedding planner. She envisions a service that combines planning of the liturgy, planning the reception and preparing for marriage.

And she has a clear-cut approach in mind: She'll begin by helping couples plan a liturgy that reflects their unique relationship and God's vision for marriage; then she'll help plan a reception that echoes that liturgy. It's an approach that reminds couples the liturgy is the pinnacle of their wedding day, not a pit stop to the party.

Brooke nearly bursts with giddiness to consider the rich possibilities of a distinctly Catholic reception. It may mean framing verses from the readings at your wedding Mass and using them as table centerpieces. It could mean asking reception goers to sign a Bible versus a guestbook or inviting them to write prayer intentions and place them in a jar. It might mean saluting the longest-married couples in the room. It could mean having the groom and bride wash each other's feet as a symbolic act of service rather than challenging him to remove her garter. It definitely informs the way you handle meal-time, toasts, dancing and alcohol.

Brooke has the courage to be different, and this wedding season she's encouraging other engaged Catholics to do the same, to heed the Holy Father and let love take precedence over everything else.

"You are capable of opting for a more modest and simple celebration in which love takes precedence over everything else."

Pope Francis

"Amoris Laetitia," Chapter 6

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and the editor of SisterStory.org.

Summertime is a great time . . . to evangelize; here are some ideas

Here we are in late May, anticipating the combination of slumber and bustle of summer. Many families will throw graduation parties. Some will celebrate beautiful weddings. And just about everyone will enjoy a cookout or pool party more than once.

But sadly, while kids are on school vacation, many families seem to take a vacation from Mass attendance; even those who attend during the school year. I'd like to take a few moments to talk about how we can encourage our friends and family to not only attend Mass, but experience the faith fully during these summer months.



*Called to
Witness*

Kim Padan

1. Once again, let's start with the basics: focus on the Mass. Continue to invite others to come along with you. Summer can be a great time to have a backyard brunch after Mass. Invite close friends, or maybe that family you see occasionally but haven't formally met. Make Sunday a day of Christian fellowship.

2. Need a wedding or graduation gift? How about having a Mass said for your loved one? Many people think of these Mass intentions only for the deceased, but you

can also do this for the living. In fact, one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to "Pray for the living and the dead." Many parishes and shrines have special cards to let people know of this special gift. Adding a personal note can help people understand its significance. Way more precious than retail gift cards!

3. When my husband and I travel, we always look for hotels near Catholic churches. It's easy to find schedules by going to masstimes.org. We love attending Mass at other churches, and almost always take pictures of the architecture or special features, then post on Facebook. We have done this for years to share our travels, but it is also a way of sharing our faith. After all, it is God who provides the resources for the vacation, the safety on the road, and the incredible scenery along the way. We can't help but take time to worship Him, no matter where we are! So if you are on social media, take advantage of every opportunity to post, like, share and tweet about your faith!

While we are entering a season of vacation, let us not take a vacation from experiencing and sharing God's goodness through worship and witness.

4. Here's a fun one from the National Council of Catholic Women: Jam and Jelly Ministry. Parishioners who garden and those who make jellies can combine their talents to make small gifts to "spread God's love." These treats can be given to new families, and even non-Catholic households in the neighborhood as a means of invitation. Note cards can be attached with personal messages and Scripture passages. The NCCW program includes many ideas such as "I'd like to invite you to come to my church for Mass," and "I know you are going through some rough times. May God be with you and let you help me share your burden."

So while we are in a season of vacation, let us not take a vacation from experiencing and sharing God's goodness through worship and witness. Be not afraid to tell the Good News all summer long!

THE NATIONAL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has compiled a collection of program ideas for evangelization within our parishes. Peoria DCCW will be sharing some of these ideas, as well as others inspired by the national program, "We Are Called to Witness," periodically here in The Catholic Post. If your parish women's group is affiliated with PDCCW, you can have access to the entire program. Contact Kim Padan — evangelization chair, Catholic speaker, and member of St. Paul Parish in Danville — at kim@gabrielsmom.com.

God exists within relationship of love

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity/ May 22

Proverbs 8:22-31; Psalm 8:4-5,6-7,8-9;
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Of all the things we humans find satisfying, I would wager that relationships are on the top of most of our lists. Food, sports, entertainment, accomplishment — they all have their rewards, but none seem to harness the depths of who we are as persons as relationships do. None cause us to thrive as vibrantly when there or languish as dramatically when absent as do human relationships.



Living the Word

Shawn Reeves

So many aspects of our experience of relationship exist within the body — a touch, a kiss, a warm feeling in the heart — that at times it would seem that we cannot fathom the phenomenon of relationship without a body. But to be a God who is Love is to reside within relationship — eternally. And that is what our readings celebrate this Sunday. It's precisely what belief in the Trinity is all about.

The Trinity is a truth that, though weighty, is often written off in many hearts as a mystery to be obediently believed by the simple, but only understood by the elect and learned few. It need not be this way. The key is *relationship*.

To borrow an analogy from St. Augustine, I have a mind that can think, reflect, imagine. I can even have a thought (or a word) about myself, and through this I can appreciate myself, love myself. But none of these alone are me — the mind, the word, the love. Rather, these internal relationships are how I exist and experience myself. I am one, but there are relationships that make me who I am. If that is the case for me, that is certainly the case for God.

The mind and word and love of God are so absolute and infinite, however, that these internal relationships are also absolute and personal — a Father and His Son (His Word) and the Love that binds them in communion (the Holy Spirit). One God, three eternal relationships.

To be God is to exist within relationship.

EVERYTHING IN COMMON

In the mystical, poetic manner of the first reading from Proverbs, the divine Son of the Father is spoken of as the very Wisdom that flows forth from the Father. Before there were depths, fountains, mountains, and hills, there was the Wisdom of the Father, the Son. At no point did the Father ever not possess a Son but always was Father from “the beginning of His ways.”

Wherever the Father was, the Son announces, “I was there.” And whatever the Father did, the Son and the Wisdom of the Father (1 Corinthians 1:24) declares, “I was beside him as his craftsman” — the two, eternally bound together, undivided in relationship.

Jesus reinforces this in the Gospel, declaring that His union with the Father is so complete and irrevocable that “everything that the Father has is mine.” There is nothing they do not possess in common, even divine life itself.

But there is another who has a natural, active right to what is of the Father and the Son. “The Spirit of truth,” Jesus announces, “will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” What is the Father's is also the Son's is also the Holy Spirit's — One God, three cooperative and united relationships.

Perhaps, though, few things define for us “relationship” more than love. So it is fitting that our readings offer us this last insight: God's love, the love through which the Father and Son are eternally united in relationship and in which the Holy Spirit's personhood is identified, is poured into us through prayer and sacraments. “Because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

The Holy Spirit, who is the inexpressible communion and fellowship between the Father and the Son, plunges Himself into our souls and brings to our experiences an awakening of Trinitarian relationship, so that our relationships might become empowered by the love of theirs. Truly, “we boast in the hope of the glory of God!” Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

SHAWN REEVES has served as the director of religious education at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign since 2001. He and his family are members of St. Malachy Parish in Rantoul.

Daily Readings

Monday, May 23: Weekday

1 Peter 1:3-9
Psalm 111:1-2,5-6,9 and 10c
Mark 10:17-27

Tuesday, May 24: Weekday

1 Peter 1:10-16
Psalm 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday, May 25: Weekday

1 Peter 1:18-25
Psalm 147:12-13,14-15,19-20
Mark 10:32-45

Thursday, May 26: St. Philip Neri

1 Peter 2:2-4,9-12
Psalm 100:2,3,4,5
Mark 10:46-52

Friday, May 27: Weekday

1 Peter 4:7-13
Psalm 96:10,11-12,13

Mark 11:11-26

Saturday, May 28: Weekday

Jude 17,20b-24
Psalm 63:2,3-4,5-6
Mark 11:27-33

Sunday, May 29: Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Genesis 14:18-20
Psalm 110:1,2,3,4
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Luke 9:11b-17

Monday, May 30: Weekday

2 Peter 1:2-7
Psalm 91:1-2,14-15b,15c-16
Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday, May 31: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16
(Psalm) Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6
Luke 1:39-56

Wednesday, June 1: St. Justin Martyr

2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12
Psalm 123:1b-2ab,2cdef
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, June 2: Weekday

2 Timothy 2:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5ab,8-9,10 and 14
Mark 12:28-34

Friday, June 3: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6
Romans 5:5b-11
Luke 15:3-7

Saturday, June 4: Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Timothy 4:1-8
1 Samuel 2:1,4-5,6-7,8abcd
Luke 2:41-51

Projects of mercy

Mercy: That is Pope Francis' designated theme and focus for this year. We know there are different kinds of mercy. Among them are “feed the hungry” and “give drink to the thirsty” from the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Here, in our country, we are really blessed with an abundance of food and water and no matter how poor we are there are still a lot of places where we can get help if we want to. However, if we open our eyes, hearts and minds, there are still so many people throughout the world, young and old, who need our kindness and generosity.

Under the National Council of Catholic Women's Service Commission we support and encourage your participation in the following projects:



Council Comments Nympha White

● **Mother Teresa Fund:** Some of our parishes continue to send their donation to us so that we can help the Missionaries of Charity help the “poorest of the poor.” We ask that you consider being a part of this project and let us not forget their work now that Mother Teresa has gone to our Heavenly Father and will be a saint come Sept. 4.

● **Water for Life:** While most of us here in the U.S. enjoy the comfort of hot and cold water for our baths, cooking, washing or watering our beautiful

gardens by just turning a faucet, some of our brothers and sisters in other countries have to walk several miles to get some dirty water from the rivers for their household's daily use. If any parish organization would like to see the video “Water for Life” we will gladly loan it to you. Just let us know by calling me at (815) 249-6411 or (815) 483-3013.

If you take a collection, please make the checks payable to Peoria DCCW (designate the charity) and send them to me, Nympha White, at 660 Myrtle Ave., Grand Ridge, IL 61325.

PRISON MINISTRY CONTINUES

Along with these projects, we want to remind you of our ongoing mission to assist the women housed at Logan Correctional Center. We urge you to read the booklet we have recently revised to learn of the items that are needed to help these women in prison. Many of the items we listed in the past will not be accepted at Logan, including clothing items, cards to be given or “sent” to the residents and toothbrushes.

We ask that your organization consider sending or delivering the items directly to the correctional center due to the costs involved. If you want to deliver or send the items, you need to call in advance and ask for Women and Family Services or Chaplain Fortone at (217) 735-5581.

Call us for the mailing address if you don't have a copy of the new booklet. We will accept items if you cannot send them, as we will make a couple of trips each year.

We hope to hear from you and we surely appreciate your help. God bless!

NYMPHA WHITE is the treasurer of Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. In addition, she chairs the DCCW's International Concerns and Prison Ministry, due to Betty Sullivan's resignation from the board because of health issues.



Follow us on The Catholic Post's Facebook site

ORDINATION: Deacon Pica called to priesthood

FROM 3

in my life and as I have grown in seminary," said Deacon Pica.

CALLED TO HOLINESS

Born on April 2, 1989, Deacon Pica is the second to the youngest of five sons of Jerry and Jane Pica. When the boys visited their Grandma Pica, she would frequently ask "Who's going to be the priest?"

"At those moments, I didn't think it would be me," said Deacon Pica, who went on to graduate from Champaign's Centennial High School in 2007. In enrolling at Bradley, his plans were to become a physical therapist like his father, then get married, have children, and "change the world."

During his freshmen year in college, he went on a Koinonia retreat sponsored by the St. Joseph Catholic Newman Center on campus.

"I really got to know the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the love that God has for us," he recalls. "It became so real to me."

He also learned he was called to holiness. And while holiness can be lived out in many ways, during his sophomore year after speaking with Msgr. Brownsey, he determined the best place to grow in holiness for him would be the seminary.

At the time, he was a resident adviser in a Bradley dormitory. In speaking about the possibility of priesthood with one of his bosses, she told him "Your eyes light up when you talk about it. It's something you have a passion for."

"That stuck with me, and gave me a drive to say, yes, this is something I might be called to."

SUPPORTED ON JOURNEY

He has felt support throughout his preparation for the priesthood, first at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota, then during his theology studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In the summers of his seminary years, he assisted at the diocese's Emmaus Days

vocation retreats as well as at parishes in Monmouth, Danville, Moline and East Moline.

And when at home in Champaign, he has been a frequent visitor to Holy Cross School, where the prayer support and pride in him are especially strong.

"We want you to know how really, really proud we are of you and how honored we are that you have chosen this vocation in life," said Elizabeth Kelley, religion coordinator for grades 6-8, during a presentation of cards and gifts to Deacon Pica at the close of an all-school Mass on May 13. "We have a very special place in our hearts for you," she added, emphasizing the prayers will continue long after his ordination day.

Deacon Pica also credited several priests for their support and example, including Father Antonio Dittmer, his college seminary spiritual director. He cited Father Willard's generosity, saying "the example of his life and the love which he gives to everyone is incredible." And of Father Henderson, Deacon Pica said "he's a very holy priest and I pray I may serve the people of God as he has."

Deacon Pica said he is looking forward to the moment of ordination and then celebrating Mass with Bishop Jenky. "That's going to be incredible," he said, marveling at what it will be like to "enter into what is going on, the reality of being ordained a priest of Jesus Christ."

Memorial Day Mass set May 30 in Peoria

Msgr. Charles Beebe will celebrate Mass on Monday, May 30, in the chapel at Resurrection Mausoleum, 7519 N. Allen Road, in Peoria. The Memorial Day Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The Mass is sponsored by the Catholic Cemetery Association of Peoria, which represents families with loved ones at St. Mary's Cemetery and St. Joseph Cemetery, both in West Peoria, as well as Resurrection Cemetery and Mausoleum.




OSF OnCall™

OSF isn't just providing care closer to home. We're providing care in your home. With OSF OnCall, you'll get quick online access to doctors ready to diagnose and treat you. For care on the spot, visit osfhealthcare.org/oncall.

See how it works at osfhealthcare.org/oncall



ProximoTravel

Pilgrimages for Catholics and people of all faiths

Prices starting at \$2,499 ~ with Airfare Included in this price from anywhere in the USA

Several trips to different destinations: the Holy Land; Italy; France, Portugal, & Spain; Poland; Medjugorje, Lourdes, & Fatima; Ireland & Scotland; England; Austria, Germany, & Switzerland; Greece & Turkey; Viking Cruises; Caribbean Cruises; Budapest; Prague; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Colombia; Brazil; Argentina; Domestic Destinations; etc...

We also specialize in custom trips for Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

www.proximotravel.com
anthony@proximotravel.com

508-340-9370
 855-842-8001
 Call us 24/7

This page is sponsored in thanksgiving for the consecrated women and men who are serving or have served in the Diocese of Peoria



Msgr. Mark Merdian walks through McCarthy Hall at St. Pius X Parish in Rock Island sprinkling holy water after Bishop Jenky blessed the new addition during ceremonies May 7. The photo above shows how the exterior blends in with the circular design of the church. *The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody*

Church hall addition blessed at St. Pius X, Rock Island

ROCK ISLAND — Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, blessed and dedicated the new McCarthy Hall for St. Pius X Parish here during brief ceremonies following a confirmation Mass at the church on Saturday, May 7.

In the blessing, which was attended by a crowd including clergy from throughout the region who concelebrated the 11 a.m. confirmation Mass,

Bishop Jenky prayed that the hall be a place “where all of you may come to know one another better and give witness to our shared faith in Christ.”

Ground was broken last August for the one-level, 4,700-square-foot addition that is attached to the north entrance of the church. It features a circular exterior to blend in with the church and includes a catering kitchen, a hall with seating for

120, table and chair storage, and restrooms.

“This is a very exciting day,” said Msgr. Mark Merdian, pastor, who credited former pastor Father R. Michael Schaab for preliminary work to identify parish needs.

He also expressed the deep appreciation of the parish to the late Richard McCarthy, a parishioner and longtime usher at the church who donated \$1.5 million

to St. Pius X through his trust. McCarthy died in 2008, and was represented at the blessing ceremonies by John Callas.

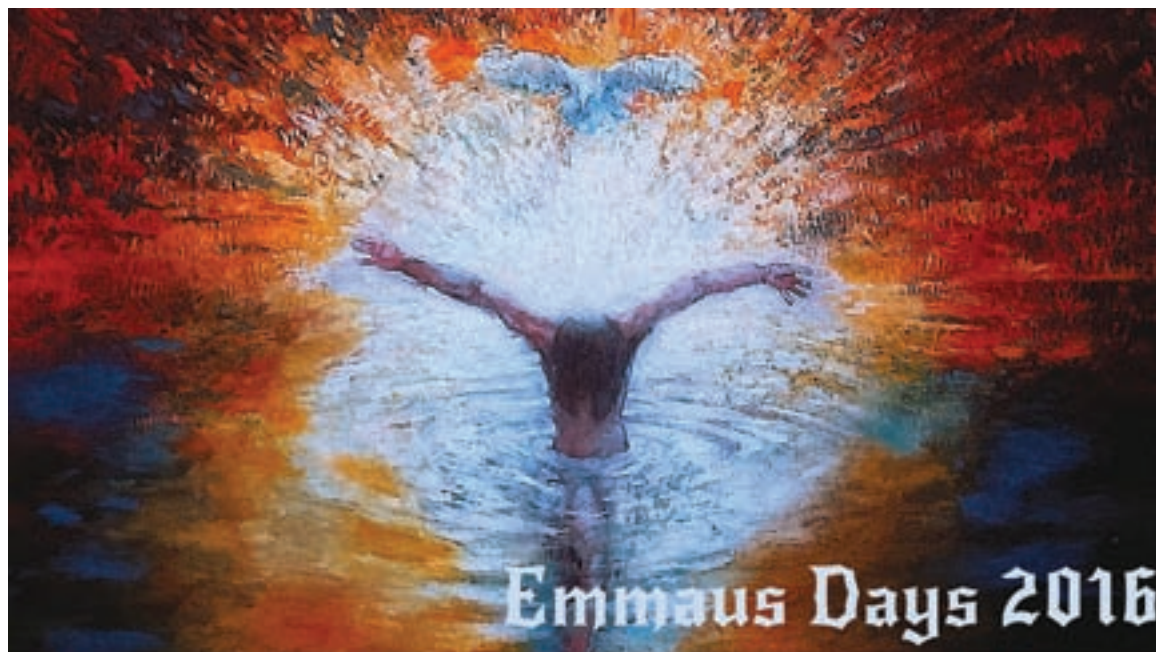
“It makes all the family and the committee very proud to participate with this, and give St. Pius something that will allow a greater quality of membership and life in the parish community for years to come,” said Callas.

The addition will be used as a gathering space for coffee and conversations following Mass, for funeral luncheons, Bible study, RCIA, wedding rehearsal

dinners, and children’s liturgy of the word.

“May all who come here know the presence of Christ, experience the joy of his friendship, and grow in his love,” prayed Bishop Jenky before sprinkling the first holy water. He later blessed the church’s adoration chapel, which has a new entry because of the addition.

Precision Builders of LeClaire, Iowa, was the general contractor. The facility was designed by Gere/Dismer Architects, KJWW Engineering, and Missman, Inc., all of Rock Island.



You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.

Emmaus Days is a time set aside for young men to discover God’s call in their lives. Participants spend time hanging out with men their age, seminarians and priests; attend Mass and Eucharistic adoration; and listen to talks that help them discover the mission God has for them.

comeandfollowme.org/emmausdays

Session 1: June 17-20
College & Young Adult
Nazareth House, Henry, IL

Session 2: June 24-27
High School Juniors & Seniors
Nazareth House, Henry, IL

Session 3: July 10-13
High School Freshmen & Sophomores
St. Bede Abbey, Peru, IL

Session 4: July 13-15
7th & 8th Graders
St. Bede Abbey, Peru, IL

Msgr. Merdian shows Bishop Jenky the new entrance to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel at St. Pius X Church during blessing ceremonies for the church addition. *The Catholic Post/Tom Dermody*



Cathedral calendar

The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, located in Peoria at 607 N.E. Madison Ave., is the mother church of the Diocese of Peoria. Weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturdays (in Latin), and at 10:30 a.m. (in English) and 12:15 p.m. (in Spanish) on Sundays.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass is frequently a pontifical liturgy celebrated by Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC.

Sunday, May 22: Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, May 27: Holy Hour Vigil for Ordination to the Priesthood, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 28: Ordination to the Priesthood, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 4: Mass for the Summer Institute, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 11: Mass for First Communicants, 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 23: Jubilarian Mass, 4 p.m.



Earlville native is golden jubilarian. See page B2.

Provided photo/New Jersey Catholic

Jubilarians 2016



60
See page B3



50
See page B4



25
See page B6

PHONE: 309-671-1550
FAX: 309-671-1576



MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, CSC
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF PEORIA
419 N.E. MADISON AVE.
PEORIA, IL 61603

Anniversaries a time to rejoice, look forward in faith

To the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria:

My dear Friends in Christ;

One hundred and thirty-nine years ago, the young priest, John Lancaster Spalding, was sent from the East Coast to become the first bishop of what was still something of a frontier town. As part of the planning of our diocesan celebration of this milestone, I made sure to regularly remind everyone that anniversaries should not be so much about remembering the past as they should energize us for the future.

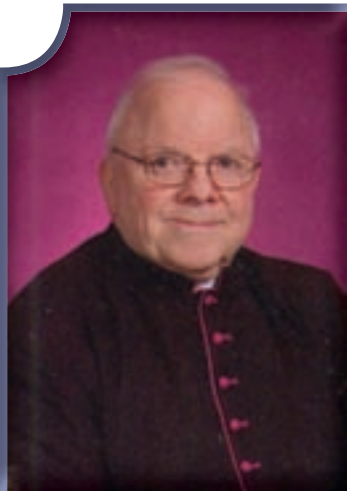
My dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate together our jubilees of consecrated and ordained life, let us remember all the marvelous things that our good God has done in our lives. Jubilees should also be occasions to rejoice as we look forward in faith to whatever joys, works and challenges our God calls us to next. As the Bishop of this wonderful diocese, I am so grateful to you, the men and women whose generous lives of service give me inspiration and strength. At every jubilee celebration, I can only wonder at the priests and religious who celebrate this year 50, 60, or 70-plus years of work in the vineyard of the Lord!

As the local Church of Peoria, let us rejoice with our Jubilarians, their families, and their religious communities. Even as we celebrate the past, we pray that Almighty God may continue to bless them with many more years of consecrated and priestly ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C.

+Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA



Congratulations Msgr. Ernie Pizzamiglio on your 50th Anniversary of service to Our Lord!

from your parish families at
**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Galesburg**



Archbishop Myers among golden jubilarians in 2016

Among the priests of the Diocese of Peoria celebrating the 50th anniversary of ordination in 2016 is the seventh bishop of Peoria.

Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, a native of Earlville who was shepherd here from 1990 to 2001, was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 17, 1966, at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican after four years of study at the North American College, Gregorian University in Rome.

The Catholic Post will interview Archbishop Myers nearer to his ordination date.

Born in Ottawa on July 26, 1941, he is the oldest of seven children of the late M. W. (Jack) and Margaret Myers of Earlville. After attending Earlville public grade and high schools, he enrolled at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, to study mathematics and political science. One year later, he switched to the school's seminary department and, upon graduation in 1963, was sent to Rome for theological studies.

Following ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish, Peoria, and St. Matthew Parish, Champaign. He would later earn a canon law degree from The Catholic University of America.

As a priest of the diocese, Archbishop Myers held a variety of positions including a decade as vocations director and chancellor, and five years as vicar general.

He was appointed coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Peoria by Pope John Paul II on July 14, 1987, with his episcopal ordination taking place at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria on Sept. 3, 1987.



Archbishop John J. Myers

Upon the retirement of Bishop Edward W. O'Rourke, Bishop Myers was installed as diocesan bishop on Jan. 23, 1990.

TO NEWARK IN 2001

Bishop Myers' 11 years as diocesan bishop included the penning of seven pastoral letters on topics ranging from pro-life issues to catechetical renewal; presiding over the diocese's first Eucharistic Congress in 1992; the ordination of more than 80 priests; and guiding the diocese into the third millennium of Christianity, including through a series of unprecedented regional Masses.

Pope John Paul II appointed him the fifth archbishop of Newark — an urban archdiocese of 1.3 million Catholics located just across the Hudson River from Manhattan — on July 24, 2001. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 greatly impacted his new diocese. Archbishop Myers, who was installed in Newark on Oct. 9, officiated at numerous funerals and services for those who perished in the World Trade Center attacks, and published a pastoral message reflecting on faith and terrorism.

He oversaw the 150th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Newark in 2003, and launched two major studies to address the future of the archdiocese. He has served or currently serves on several committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as the governing boards of universities and other Catholic institutions.

This July 26, Archbishop Myers will turn 75 — the age at which canon law requires bishops to submit their resignation to the pope.

Two share gifts of preaching, teaching for 60 years

The last 60 years have seen some turbulent times in the nation and major changes in the church, but they have also provided moments of great joy for Father Robert Hoffmann and Father Thomas Kelly. In the days ahead they will gather with family and friends to celebrate all that has been and what is still to come.

Father Hoffmann is planning a Mass for next Sunday, May 29, at 2 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 444 E. Main St., in Danville. A small reception will follow.

His sister, Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Eleanor Hoffmann, who celebrated her own 60th anniversary of consecrated life two years ago, will offer a reflection.

Father Kelly's celebration will be on Sunday, June 5, at St. Anthony Church, 2525 S. Skyway Road, in Bartonville. Father Thomas Henseler will preside at the 9 a.m. Mass and Father Kelly will be the homilist.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available after Mass.

Ordained by Bishop William E. Cousins on May 27, 1956, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, both are now senior priests of the diocese. Father Kelly retired in 1999 and Father Hoffman followed a year later.

Twelve members of their ordination class are now deceased: Father Edward Bader, Msgr. Raymond Boyle, Father George Caspar, Father Eugene Finnell, Msgr. Richard G. Fitzsimmons, Father Joseph Graves, Father William D. Isermann, Father John A. Mahoney, Father John Naab, Father Donald Schladen,

Father Mario W. Shaw and Father John Valiquette.

Brief profiles of the jubilarians follow, along with their addresses.

FATHER HOFFMAN

For Father Hoffmann, the Second Vatican Council was a turning point and the former Latin teacher embraced it with great enthusiasm.



"It just opened up all kinds of avenues of meaningfulness in liturgy and sacraments and the Eucharist itself," he told The Catholic Post. "It was exciting."

Translating the prayer language of the church from Latin to English also opened the hearts and minds of Catholics in the pews and as a result they took more responsibility for the mission of the church and its prayer life, he said.

"I think it contributed to their willingness to participate and invite other people into the church," Father Hoffmann said.

That helped the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to blossom when it was reintroduced in 1974. He was responsible for beginning the process at Holy Family in Danville and St. John in Clinton and said, "It was a very powerful experience."

He has always enjoyed teaching and has

applied that skill to marriage preparation and counseling, as well as the RCIA. While he isn't scheduled regularly, Father Hoffmann also assists at the Danville-area parishes and said it's a thrill to be able to reflect on the Scriptures with people through his homilies.

He has had a lot of practice.

Following ordination, Father Hoffman served as parochial vicar at St. John in Peoria and St. Paul in Odell, where he was also on the faculty and athletic director at St. Paul High School, and chaplain at the Veterans Hospital in Dwight. He went on to teach at Alleman High School and assisted at St. Mary Church, both in Rock Island.

He ministered at St. John's Catholic Chapel on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign during the Vietnam War and recalled the "division and stress" that existed among the students and staff, which included persons on both sides of the conflict.

Returning to parish ministry at St. Bernard in Peoria in 1969, Father Hoffmann would go on to serve as pastor at St. Patrick, Wapella, and St. Mary, Downs; co-pastor of St. Patrick, Danville, and then pastor at Holy Family in Danville; and pastor at St. John, Clinton, and St.

Patrick, Wapella. In addition, he has been vicar of the Lincoln Vicariate and co-chaplain at the Newman Foundation at Illinois State University in Normal.

These days, he admits to being addicted to Sudoku and appreciates having the time "to think and to investigate and to wonder. . . . Constantly developing and discovering new purposes and new meaning to things — and greater possibilities."

Mail for Father Hoffmann may be sent to 343 Hickory Court, Oakwood, IL 61858.

FATHER KELLY

While he doesn't preside at Mass anymore — "I'm too unsteady on my feet



and I don't want to stumble with the Blessed Sacrament in my hand" — Father Kelly continues to find ways to share Christ with as many people as he can.

Since selling his retirement home in Wisconsin and re-

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER KELLY** B17

Two priests marking 40 years of ordination

Msgr. John J. Prendergast, a senior priest of the Diocese of Peoria, and Msgr. Steven P. Rohlfs, are celebrating the 40th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood in 2016.

Msgr. Prendergast was ordained on July 4, 1976, at Immaculate Conception Church in Streator. Msgr. Rohlfs was ordained on May 22, 1976, at St. Mary Church in Lincoln.

Mail for Msgr. Prendergast, who was granted senior priest status last year, may be sent to Buehler Home, 3415 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria, IL 61604.

Msgr. Rohlfs, rector emeritus of St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, assists with spiritual direction at St. Paul Seminary. His address is 2260 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Congratulations

Father Robert Hoffmann
60 years
and
Father Ted Pracz
50 years
in the Priesthood.



Thank you for your dedicated service!
St. Paul, Danville



The Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.,

joyfully invites

the faithful to join him

Thursday, June 23,

at 4:00 p.m.

*in the Cathedral of St. Mary
of the Immaculate Conception
for the Jubilarian Celebration*

in honor of our priests

celebrating their anniversaries.

Priestly ministry takes four near and far over 50 years

Seven priests in the Diocese of Peoria are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination in 2016.

Father Richard L. Barclift, Father John C. Horton, Msgr. Ernest E. Pizzamiglio and Msgr. Paul E. Showalter, P.A., were ordained by Bishop John B. Franz on May 22, 1966, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. Meanwhile, on Dec. 17 of that year, Archbishop John J. Myers was ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

One member of the class, Father William C. Betson, has died.

In addition, the Diocese of Peoria has benefited from the ministry of Father Ted Pracz, who was ordained for the LaSalette Fathers on April 23, 1966. He was featured in the April 10 issue of The Catholic Post.

Salesian Father Joseph Santa-Bibiana, who has ministered at Holy Cross Church in Champaign since 2013, was ordained on March 6, 1966. He was featured in the Feb. 28 issue of The Post.

Brief profiles of Father Barclift, Father Horton, Msgr. Pizzamiglio and Msgr. Showalter follow, along with details about their celebrations and addresses.

To find information for Archbishop Myers, see page B2.

FATHER BARCLIFT

Whether he's ministering to recovering addicts and alcoholics, attending to the spiritual needs of the people working on cruise ships, or celebrating Mass at churches in the Quad Cities, Father Barclift enjoys connecting with people.

"It raises the bar on ministry," he said.

Not only are the encounters sacramental for him, but he considers those he meets to be sources of "grace and delight."

Born in Waterloo, Iowa, Father Barclift spent much of his childhood in Council Bluffs. His father, Roy, traveled throughout the state of Iowa for work and wanted his son to attend Creighton Prep, across the Missouri River in Omaha, Nebraska.

Father Barclift had been thinking about



Father Barclift



Father Horton



Msgr. Pizzamiglio



Msgr. Showalter

the priesthood, so he decided to see if it was a good fit for him by applying to the Diocese of Des Moines. He attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, for one year.

When his parents returned to Hancock County in Illinois, their pastor took him around and introduced him to the priests in Diocese of Peoria. "You need to be here," he told the young seminarian. Father Barclift decided to follow the older man's advice. Accepted by the Diocese of Peoria, he studied philosophy at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa, and theology at St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

Father Richard Barclift

Father Barclift's first assignments were as parochial vicar at St. Joseph in Rock Island, Epiphany in Normal, and St. Patrick in Lincoln. In 1972 he started work-

ing with the Diocesan Vocation Team and in 1974 was named a diocesan consultor.

In 1976, he joined the Rock Island-Milan Cooperative Ministry as co-pastor of St. Ambrose in Milan and St. Patrick in Andalusia. He was named pastor of those parishes two years later.

"It was a great experience," Father Barclift recalled, saying it allowed the parishes to collaborate across parish boundaries and gave people an experience of the larger Catholic community.

Another highlight of his ministry was serving as the diocesan director of Christ Renew His Parish, which provided opportunities for people to grow in and live the sacraments beyond Sunday Mass.

He served as pastor of St. Patrick in LaSalle and Christ the King in Moline before returning to St. Patrick in Andalusia in 1998. Father Barclift began his ministry as a maritime chaplain with the Apostleship of the Sea in 2009, the same year he was granted senior priest status.

Not only does he assist in Quad Cities parishes, but he also celebrates Mass for the Benedictine Sisters at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island. He said he enjoys the camaraderie of the priests and women religious in the area.

Everything he does flows from "my hunger to make a difference in people's lives and their hunger to find a little added dimension to their faith and some answers to their life's issues, life's problems," he said.

Father Barclift will celebrate Masses

of Thanksgiving on Saturday, May 21, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church in Hamilton, and on Sunday, May 22, at 8 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Warsaw.

Mail for Father Barclift may be sent to 110 19th St., Suite 205, Rock Island, IL 61201.

FATHER HORTON

Father Horton knew from an early age that he wanted to be a priest.

"We played Mass," he said. "My mom had cookie cutters so we took white bread, flattened it, and cut out rounds. Boy, did that bread get hard after awhile."

Growing up on Chicago's South Side, he liked going to Mass and served almost every day for the Augustinians who staffed Mendel High School in the Pullman neighborhood. His pastor also took an interest in him and because he socialized with the priests from the Diocese of Peoria, that's where he took Father Horton to apply for the priesthood.

Msgr. George Carton, director of vocations, sent him to St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa, to study philosophy, and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, to study theology.

His first assignment to Immaculate Conception in Streator put him close enough to home that he could drive up to Chicago and back on his days off. He would also serve as parochial vicar at St. Mary in Lincoln and St. Patrick in Ottawa.

He was named pastor at St. Patrick in Havana and Immaculate Conception in Manito in 1977 and remained there for 18 years.

His last assignment took him to a new parish, Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet, where he oversaw construction of the

"The main thing that has brought me joy has always been celebrating Mass. That's how it started and that's the main thing."

Father John Horton



The priests, deacons, and laity of the Galesburg Vicariate salute

Msgr. Ernie Pizzamiglio
on his golden jubilee of priesthood.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to
Father John C. Horton
50 years

from the
staff and parishioners at
Our Lady of the Lake, Mahomet



church. Happy with the way the parish complex came together, he said his one regret is that they couldn't afford to buy stained glass windows.

Father Horton was granted senior priest status in 2010 and moved to Bloomington. While he was never assigned there, he has friends in the area and remains busy by assisting with confessions and Masses at the area parishes and schools.

"The main thing that has brought me joy has always been celebrating Mass," he told The Catholic Post. "That's how it started and that's the main thing."

Father Horton said he has also enjoyed the times he's been able to teach, including offering presentations on Scripture to the permanent deacon candidates in the early days.

"It would usually be on Sunday afternoons," he recalled. "I was so taken with the deacons and their wives, sometimes I would go just to be there."

He said he was impressed with how they gave up their time for five years of formation and then gave their lives to the church.

"I just have the highest admiration for them. It just amazes me," he said.

Father Horton's hobbies include reading and photography and the railroad man's son has a shed filled with model trains.

Mail for Father Horton may be sent to 1837 E. Lafayette St., Bloomington, IL 61701-7014.

MSGR. PIZZAMIGLIO

When he was in the Air Force, Msgr. Pizzamiglio used to dream of finding a good woman to settle down with and having children. God gave him everything he dreamed of — and more.

"I got the greatest woman in all of God's creation — our Blessed Mother," he recently told The Catholic Post. "And my kids are all Catholics."

Someone once asked him if he was lonely, living in the rectory at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, where he has served as pastor for 25 years, but they needn't have worried.

"I live with Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I have all the company I need," Msgr. Pizzamiglio said. "I'm serious about that. I talk to them all the time. It's called prayer."

While his prayer life has always been strong, Msgr. Pizzamiglio didn't get to know Mary, whom he calls "my girl," until he was in high school.

Born on the South Side of Chicago, he was baptized in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. When the Pizzamiglio family moved to Spring Valley, there was no comparable place of worship and he eventually stopped going to church. That changed when his Catholic brother-in-law invited him to Mass at Immaculate Conception Church.

He didn't understand the Latin or really know what the priest was doing, but felt a powerful attraction.

"I didn't know it at the time, but it was

the Blessed Sacrament. It was our Lord," Msgr. Pizzamiglio said. "He was drawing me into that. It was so strong I wanted to go back again."

He continued to go to Mass after he joined the Air Force and started taking instructions in the Catholic faith. He was baptized conditionally and confirmed while serving as an aircraft mechanic during the Korean War. It was his baptism that got him thinking God might have other plans for him and during heartfelt conversations with God before the Blessed Sacrament he offered his life to the Lord.

MSGR. ERNEST PIZZAMIGLIO

After he was discharged from the military, he returned to central Illinois and was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Peoria. He was sent to St. Bede College to learn Latin and study liberal arts, and then attended St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, to study philosophy, and St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle to study theology.

Msgr. Pizzamiglio found the coursework challenging, but kept going with support from Msgr. George Carton, then vocations director for the Diocese of Peoria, and Bishop John B. Franz. He also credits the Holy Family, to whom he turned in prayer often.

"God works with us. If only people realized that, if we only put our trust in him," he said. "You've got to persevere!"

Msgr. Pizzamiglio served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Peoria, Holy Cross in Champaign, and Visitation in Kewanee before being named administrator at St. John in Galva. His pastorates took him to St. Patrick in Elkhart, St. Thomas in Mount Pulaski, and St. John in Middletown, in 1976; St. Mary in DePue in 1981; St. Edward in Chillicothe in 1985; and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Galesburg in 1990. While at the Galesburg parish, he has also shepherded the faith community at St. Aloysius in Wataga twice.

He was vicar of the Kewanee Vicariate and has been vicar of the Monmouth Vicariate since 1990.

He was named a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of monsignor in 2009.

"I love the priesthood," Msgr. Pizzamiglio said. "It's the greatest vocation. To be called to be an instrument of our Lord, to bring him body, blood, soul and divinity to people in holy Communion — what could be greater than that?"

PLEASE TURN TO GOLDEN JUBILARIANS B19

Congratulations, Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland, S.T.D.,

for your 25 years
of priestly service to
the Church and her
people, and for your
dedicated service
as President of
Donnelly College.

Wishing you continued
success,

Donnelly College
students, staff, faculty
and Board of Trustees



*Thank you
for your dedicated
service to the
priesthood
for 25 years*

Father William Keebler!

From the staff & parish families at:

St. John, Cullom

St. Joseph, Flanagan

St. Paul, Odell

St. Mary, Pontiac

Nine discuss their 25 years of joys, blessings in ministry

Part of the largest ordination class the Diocese of Peoria had seen in a quarter of a century, the priests who are celebrating their silver jubilee this year did not even fit in the sanctuary of St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria when it came time to lay prostrate during the Litany of the Saints. The center aisle of the cathedral had to be used to accommodate them all.

Msgr. Michael Bliss, Father Dwight Campbell, Father Joseph Donton, Msgr. Philip Halfacre, Father William Keebler, Father James Kretz, Msgr. Stuart Swetland and Father Dominic Vitaliano, were among those who were ordained on May 25, 1991, by Bishop (now Archbishop) John J. Myers. They will be honored in a variety of ways this spring for 25 years of priestly service given to the Diocese of Peoria and the church at large.

They lost one member of the class last September, when Father Benjamin Reese died from complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Father Mubarak Anwar Amar would be ordained for the Diocese of Peoria at St. Mary's Cathedral on Dec. 21, 1991. He died in 2008.

Father Rogers Byambaasa, the chaplain at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, is also celebrating his silver jubilee in 2016. He was ordained for the Apostles of Jesus on July 7, 1991.

The Catholic Post posed nine questions to each of the silver jubilarians. Following are their responses or excerpts of their responses to at least three of them.

To read the answers in their entirety, see thecatholicpost.com.

Msgr. Michael Bliss

Msgr. Bliss was born in Florissant, Missouri. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Christendom College in



Front Royal, Virginia, and studied for the priesthood at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, where

he earned a master's degree in Scripture and a master's of divinity degree.

After ordination he served as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Moline for two years and at St. John's Catholic Chapel in Champaign for three years. He began his hospital ministry in 1996, when he was named assistant chaplain at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He has been chaplain since 1998 and is also director of pastoral care there.

Msgr. Bliss completed a clinical pastoral education residency in 2001.

He was named a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of monsignor in 2007.

Msgr. Bliss will celebrate his anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 29, at 11 a.m. in the chapel at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Mail may be sent to him

Father Rogers Byambaasa, AJ

Father Rogers was born in Kabale, Uganda, in East Africa. He was considered a late vocation when he entered the Apostles of



Jesus at 23 to study for the priesthood.

His perseverance paid off, however. Of the 56 men who

started the novitiate, only 14 went on to the priesthood — including Father Rogers.

He taught and offered spiritual direction at the Apostles of Jesus Kiserian minor seminary in Kenya for a time and worked as pastor of St. Luke Church in Loitokitok and Ugandan Martyrs Church in Kibirichia, both in Kenya, before coming to the United States in 2001. He was named assistant chaplain at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria that year, and has been chaplain at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington since 2013.

Father Rogers will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday, July 7, in the chapel of OSF St. Joseph. It will begin at 11 a.m.

He is planning another Mass of Thanksgiving on Dec. 27, in Nyabirerema village, Bukinda sub-county, Kabale district,

Father Dwight Campbell

Born in Chicago, Father Campbell holds a bachelor's degree from Loyola University Chicago and received a law degree from



the Loyola School of Law in 1982. After practicing law in central Illinois for four years as an assistant state's attorney,

he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he earned master's degrees in divinity and theology.

He was parochial vicar at St. Patrick in Urbana for one year before being named pastor at St. Lawrence in Penfield and Holy Trinity in Rankin, as well as chaplain at Schlarman High School in Danville. His other pastorates in the Diocese of Peoria include Sts. Peter and Paul, Nauvoo, and Sacred Heart, Dallas City, and St. Thomas, Philo and Immaculate Conception, Bongard.

Father Campbell served on the faculty at The High School of Saint Thomas More in Champaign in 2002, and the next year went to the University of Dayton for further studies. He received a licentiate in sacred theology in 2004 and a doctorate in sacred theology (with a concentration in Mariology) from the International

Father Joseph Donton

Born in Florissant, Missouri, Father Donton attended Bergan High School in Peoria. He earned bachelor's degrees in



philosophy and youth ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minnesota, and completed his

studies for the priesthood with master's degrees in divinity and moral theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Lincoln and chaplain at the Lincoln Correctional Center. He also served as parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Peoria Heights from 1992 until 1994, when he was named administrative assistant to Bishop (now Archbishop) John J. Myers and vice chancellor.

Ministry as pastor and rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria and director of vocations followed from 1997 to 2003. In 2001, he was designated vicar of the Peoria Southwest Vicariate.

Father Donton would serve as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Washington from 2003 to 2011, while also offering pastoral care as administrator or pastor of St.

PLEASE TURN TO **MSGR. BLISS** B20

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER ROGERS** B8

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER CAMPBELL** B21

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER DONTON** B8



**Congratulations to our Pastor,
Msgr. Philip Halfacre
on your 25th Anniversary
as a priest of the Diocese of Peoria!**

*from your parish families
at St. Michael the Archangel, Streator
and St. Patrick, Seneca*

**Congratulations to our Pastor,
Father Dominic Vitaliano
on 25 years of priestly service!
May God bless you!**



**St. Bernard,
Bushnell
St. Augustine,
St. Augustine**



Msgr. Philip Halfacre

Father William Keebler

Father James Kretz

Msgr. Stuart Swetland

Father Dominic Vitaliano

Msgr. Halfacre was born in East Chicago, Indiana, and grew up in Hammond. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Indiana University and master's degrees in divinity and sacred theology, with an emphasis



in moral theology, from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He also studied at the John Paul II Institute on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C. After ordination, Msgr. Halfacre served as parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Peoria Heights. The following year he was named pastor at St. Mary Parish in Utica and started his long association with Mar-

Father Keebler was born in Daytona Beach, Florida. He attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, and studied for the priesthood at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, where he earned a



master's degree in theology and a master of divinity degree. His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception in Streator. He went to St. Edward in Chillicothe in 1993, and St. Patrick in LaSalle in 1994. He served as chaplain at St. Joseph Nursing Home in Lacon for two years before being named pastor at St. Theresa in Alexis and St. Aloysius in Wataga. In 1998, Father Keebler was

A native of Pennsylvania, Father Kretz attended Temple Tech Institute in Philadelphia, where he earned an associates degree in computers and electronics. He also holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Temple University.



He received a master's degree in philosophical theology from Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. Father Kretz's first assignments were as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church of Merna in Bloomington and Epiphany Parish in Normal. In 1993 he was named pastor of St. Ann, Toluca, and Sacred Heart, Rutland. He would remain there until 2008, when he was assigned to serve

Msgr. Swetland is the president of Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas, and also serves as professor of Leadership and Christian Ethics there. Prior to that, he was vice president for Catholic Identity and Mission and



held the Archbishop Flynn Chair of Christian Ethics at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Msgr. Swetland holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the United States Naval Academy. He was elected a Rhodes Scholar in 1981 and received bachelor's and master's degrees in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University

Born in New Jersey, Father Vitaliano grew up in Miami, Florida. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1979 to serve his country and see the world, and discovered a deep love for his Catholic faith and a priestly vocation



along the way. He studied for the priesthood at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, earning master's degrees in divinity and dogmatic theology. He told The Catholic Post in 2013 that he decided to apply to the Diocese of Peoria after meeting seminarians from central Illinois during his seminary days. Father Vitaliano served as parochial vicar at St. Mary in

PLEASE TURN TO **MSGR. HALFACRE** B22

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER KEEBLER** B22

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER KRETZ** B22

PLEASE TURN TO **MSGR. SWETLAND** B23

PLEASE TURN TO **FATHER VITALIANO** B23



*Congratulations to
our Pastor,
Father Joseph Donton
celebrating 25 years
as a priest in the
Diocese of Peoria*

from your staff, school and parish families

St. Elizabeth Church
Thomasboro
St. Malachy Church & School
Rantoul



FATHER ROGERS: Joy comes from hospital ministry

FROM B6

Uganda, which will begin at 10 a.m. (East Africa Time). A lunch will follow.

Everyone is invited to both celebrations, he said.

Mail for Father Rogers may be sent to him at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, 2200 E. Washington St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

How are you a different priest today than you were 25 years ago?

I now understand better that priesthood is a vocation, not a career. You must love it and sacrifice without any benefits. It is not something you do for a living but it is a sacred call to serve God and the church. The different experiences, such as grade school and high school teacher, spiritual director in a seminary, assistant pastor and pastor, and hospital chaplain for the last 15 years have made me grow into a mature, responsible priest. . . .

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

Celebrating the Holy Eucharist of the Mass for the people of God and other sacraments which nourish the faith and bring people closer to Jesus has given me the most joy

in my priesthood. Also being part of the essential ministry of Jesus of healing the wounded, binding what is broken, and bringing home what has been lost, especially in a hospital setting for 15 years is the most joyful experience. . . .

What have been the highlights of your various assignments?

My first assignment was in the minor seminary as a spiritual director and a teacher. . . . I was asked to teach Christian religious education in the junior and senior classes. By the time I left for another assignment, the students had already developed great interest in the CRE lessons and at the end-of-year national examinations, 18 out of 24 students in the senior class got a B+ grade. This was a big achievement, that I could impact the students to like the CRE lessons. . . .

Another highlight is in the hospital as a chaplain for the last 15 years. Being there as a Catholic priest for Catholic and non-Catholic patients who are dying, who are very critical, in the emergency room, and being there for the families at the bedside, bereaved families, has been the greatest apostolate of my 25 years of priesthood. I thank God every day for such a sacramental ministry in a hospital setting.

Jubilarian Mass set for June 23

Msgr. Ernest Pizzamiglio will be the homilist for the annual Jubilarian Mass, which is planned for Thursday, June 23, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. It will begin at 4 p.m.

Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Galesburg, Msgr. Pizzamiglio is one of seven priests ministering in central Illinois who are marking 50 years of ordination in 2016.

Friends, parishioners and well-wishers are invited to join Bishop Daniel R.

Jenky, CSC, and clergy from around the Diocese of Peoria at the liturgy. In addition to honoring those who are observing milestone anniversaries this year, the Mass will celebrate the new priestly ministry of Deacon Michael Pica, who will be ordained on Saturday, May 28, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

After the Jubilarian Mass, the clergy will gather at the nearby Spalding Pastoral Center for dinner.

FATHER DONTON: 'Fed' by time spent before Jesus

FROM B6

Luke in Eureka from 2006 to 2008. His next assignment took him to St. Patrick in Ottawa and Marquette Academy, where he was a teacher.

He has been pastor at St. Malachy in Rantoul and St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Thomasboro since 2013.

Father Danton will celebrate his 25th anniversary with a bilingual Mass at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 29, at St. Malachy Church. A light reception will follow at The Linden Banquet Center in Rantoul.

Mail for Father Danton may be sent to St. Malachy Church, 340 E. Belle Ave., Suite 1, Rantoul, IL 61866.

life of service to the people of God. I smile a lot. Not every day, but most days. Why? I can honestly say that I love being a priest. I am convinced that is who God created me to be.

How are you a different priest today than you were 25 years ago?

I quickly learned that *preparing* to be a priest, is not the same as *being* a priest! Most days don't go as planned. We have to be flexible. Stay calm. Always remember that it is God's church, not mine.

What has given you the most joy in the priesthood?

Celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There was a saying on the wall of the sacristy at Mount St. Mary's Seminary that read, "Priest of God, say this Mass as if it were your first Mass, as if it were your last Mass, as if it were your only Mass." I say this to myself while I am vesting, especially if it is my fourth Mass of the day.

Talk about your prayer life — what feeds you for your ministry?

Quiet time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I look at Him. He looks at me. It's like a "Red Bull" for the soul. Sometimes I go to the "Drive-Thru" for a quick visit. Other times I make a reservation for a fine dining experience. Regardless of how long it lasts, spending time in the presence of the Lord is always satisfying!

How has priestly ministry changed in the last generation?

Fewer vocations means more responsibility for priests engaged in active ministry. Oftentimes this involves multiple assignments. I shepherd two parishes, two cemeteries, a school, and an Hispanic community. I wear many hats. It makes for early mornings, long days and late nights. I like to think of it as a joyful burden. Needless to say, we need to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Diocese of Peoria.

What drew you to the priesthood?

The example of happy priests. They convinced me that I could be happy living a

*Congratulations to
our Vicar,
Msgr. Philip Halfacre
on 25 years of service
to Our Lord,*



*and to all
Jubilarians
who are celebrating
Anniversaries
this year!*

**St. Columba Church, Ottawa
St. Mary of the Fields, Grand Ridge**



Congratulations

*Father Joseph Danton
(25 years)*

*Msgr. James Swaner
(55 years)*

for your service to Our Lord!

**St. Patrick Parish in Washington
salutes all Jubilarians,
especially those who have served our parish.**



Chillicothe man celebrates 25 years as permanent deacon

CHILLICOTHE — Being a permanent deacon isn't something he ever aspired to, but as Deacon Fred Kruse looks back over 25 years of serving at the altar, baptizing babies and even witnessing the marriage of his son, he is filled with gratitude.

"It's been a privilege and honor to be able to do this ministry," he told The Catholic Post.

Members of the parish he serves, St. Mary of the Woods in Princeville, recently thanked him for his life of service by honoring him at a Mass and reception. He found out about it by reading the parish bulletin.

Not one to be the center of attention, he tried to play it down, but Father Steven Bird, pastor, said, "Deacon, we want to do this for you."

That wasn't the only surprise his wife, Gail, had been working on, however.

The couple lives in Chillicothe and Deacon Kruse often assists Father Keith Walder, pastor of St. Edward Parish there, at Mass on Tuesday mornings. When the sacristy door opened before Mass on April 26, he discovered that it wasn't an altar



Deacon Kruse

Jakubowski on April 27, 1991, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. The Archdiocese of Chicago has the greatest number of permanent deacons in the United States.

The permanent diaconate wasn't immediately on his radar, however.

"I had been away from the church for a number of years. Gail would pack up the kids in the car on Sunday morning and take them to Mass. I would sit and read my newspaper," Deacon Kruse acknowledged, calling himself a "special events Catholic."

boy arriving but his son, Msgr. James Kruse, vicar general of the Diocese of Peoria.

No other celebrations are planned — that he knows of.

Deacon Kruse was one of 27 men ordained by Auxiliary Bishop Thad

That changed one fine spring day when he suggested they walk to St. Mary Church in Des Plaines for Mass. A parish mission was starting that weekend and he was so intrigued that they returned each night for the next session.

He got more and more involved and eventually became an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Then his pastor planted the seed: "Have you ever considered the diaconate?"

"Get out of here, Father. No way," Deacon Kruse told him, but he went home and discussed it with Gail and "the rest is history."

For three years they attended formation sessions twice a week and one weekend a month at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein.

For the first five years he served at his parish and was involved in ministry to the women at Cook County Jail with Gail. They also assisted with Marriage Encounter.

In 1996, Msgr. Kruse told his parents that a permanent deacon was needed to run the Diocese of Peoria's retreat house in rural Henry. They applied and were hired, agreeing to stay for 10 years. In the end,

they gave 13 years to that ministry.

A plumber by trade, Deacon Kruse stayed busy looking after the retreat center's 96 rooms — and bathrooms — while Gail took care of the office. Interacting with the retreatants helped him to see "how much people are really searching for peace in their lives, acceptance, and closeness with God."

In addition to helping with baptisms, funerals and "any plumbing problems that arise" at the Princeville church, Deacon Kruse brings Communion to the sick at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria each week.

In 2012, the Kruses received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal, a papal honor, for distinguished service to the church.

Their family includes a daughter, Deborah McDowell of Florida, and three sons, Fred Kruse of Deer Creek and Charles Kruse of Atlanta, as well as Msgr. Kruse. They have 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 to 28.

Mail for Deacon Kruse may be sent to 15031 River Beach Court, Chillicothe, IL 61523.

Bloomington Franciscan observing 50 years of religious profession

BLOOMINGTON — Brother Kevin Duckson, OFM, who has served St. Mary Parish for nearly 20 years, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his profession with the Order of Friars Minor. He will be honored with other jubilarians from the St. John the Baptist Province at a gathering this week.

He will also be part of a farewell reception on Sunday, May 29, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary Church. The Franciscan community is returning pastoral care of the parish to the Diocese of Peoria and leaving central Illinois on June 5.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Brother Kevin grew up in Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. He was attracted to the Order of Friars Minor through their interaction with the

Secular Franciscans there and appreciated their "simple life of prayer, study and service to one another and the community."

He entered the Order of Friars Minor after high school and started formation to be a brother. That gave him training in plumbing, electrical and cooking skills — all the things he would need to take care of the community's major houses so the priests could concentrate on pastoral ministry.

He professed first vows on Aug. 16, 1966, and final vows three years later.

Brother Kevin has served twice at St. Mary in Bloomington. From 1970 to 1974, he was the cook and porter and helped with maintenance around the parish complex. He returned in 1997 and now



Brother Kevin

ministers as a pastoral associate for the faith community and is the spiritual assistant for the St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

For his work to maintain the parish's physical plant, including the church, friary, school and cemetery, Brother Kevin re-

ceived the Diocese of Peoria's Archbishop Schlarman Award from Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, in 2012.

His ministry also has included work with his community's formation team and care for the senior friars of the province.

He cites working with the Secular Franciscans and caring for the senior members of his Franciscan family as the most satisfying aspects of his vocation, as well as "learning the history and struggles of the various parishes in the province as they continue to serve communities."

Brother Kevin advised those discerning consecrated life or the priesthood to "continue to pray and meditate, asking for God's guidance in your response to His calling."



**Congratulations
Deacon
Fred Kruse
celebrating
25 years!**



May God continue to
bless you in your service to
the Diocese of Peoria!

**St. Mary of the Woods
Princeville**



**"I am pleased to call to mind
the motto that St. Benedict gave
in his Rule, exhorting his monks
to prefer absolutely nothing
to the love of Christ!"
(Pope Benedict XVI, April 25, 2005)**

**Congratulations to all
who are celebrating
Anniversaries this year!**

**Abbot Philip and the
Monks of St. Bede Abbey**

Viatorian jubilarians include Quad Cities native

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS — Two Viatorian priests with ties to the Diocese of Peoria are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination this year, and another is marking two milestones — the 70th anniversary of his religious profession and 60 years as a priest.

The golden jubilarians are Father Alan M. Syslo, CSV, and Father John E. Van Wiel, CSV, who was born and raised in the Quad Cities. The priest with two reasons to celebrate is Father Simon P. Lefebvre, CSV.

All three will be honored at a provincial assembly in June.

FATHER LEFEBVRE

Father Lefebvre professed vows with the Clerics of St. Viator on Aug. 15, 1946, and was ordained on Aug. 15, 1956. A longtime educator, his first assignment was as a

teacher at Spalding Institute in Peoria from 1957 to 1958.

Father Lefebvre taught at the high school and college level in Nevada, Canada and Taiwan, and was director of the Center for Religion and

Life in Reno, Nevada, from 1980 to 1984. He also was a professor of the Chinese language at the University of San Diego from 1984 to 1989.

He served as associate pastor or pastor at parishes in California for 20 years, retiring in 2004.

Mail for Father Lefebvre may be sent to P.O. Box 515, Aguanga, CA 92536.

FATHER SYSLO

Father Syslo was ordained on June 4, 1966. In the Diocese of Peoria, he was dean of men and taught at Spalding Institute in Peoria from 1967 to 1974.

He holds bachelor's degrees in accounting from Loyola University Chicago

and sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. While in central Illinois he earned a master's degree in management from Illinois State University in Normal. His master's degree in social work is from Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey.



In addition to his teaching and parish ministry, he founded the John XXIII AIDS Ministry in Monterey.

He has served as a volunteer in Las Vegas since 2005.

Mail for Father Syslo may be sent to 2736 Legend Hollow Court, Henderson, NV 89074.

FATHER VAN WIEL

Father Van Wiel was born in Moline and grew up in St. Anne Parish, East Moline. He attended St. Anne School and went on to Alleman High School in Rock Island, where he was the valedictorian of the 1957 graduating class.

He entered the Viatorian community on Sept. 7, 1959, and professed first vows on Sept. 8, 1960, and final vows on Aug. 9, 1963. He was ordained on June 4, 1966, by Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo of Chicago in the chapel of Tolentine College, Olympia Fields.

Father Van Wiel earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Loyola University Chicago, and a master's degree in the same subject from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He also holds a master's degree in education administration from the University of North Carolina.

Much of his ministry has been devoted to secondary education at Catholic schools around Illinois, including his alma mater. Father Van Wiel returned to Alleman High School as principal in 1972 and remained until 1984.

He also has served his community as novice master from 1992 to 1996 and from 2015 to 2016.

Father Van Wiel is retired now. Mail for him may be sent to 1212 E. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004.



Augustinian ministered at Pekin parish

HOMER GLEN — Father Thomas L. Osborne, OSA, whose ministry brought him to St. Joseph Parish in Pekin, will observe the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this fall.

Born in Evergreen Park, Father Osborne attended St. Augustine Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Tolentine College in Olympia Fields, and did graduate work at DePaul University in Chicago and the University of Detroit in Detroit, Michigan. He was ordained on Nov. 21, 1966.

Father Osborne taught at Catholic high schools in Detroit and Chicago, and has served parishes in Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin; Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan; and Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. In the Diocese of Peoria, he was pastor at St. Joseph in Pekin from 1989 to 1994.

He also has served his Augustinian community as prior and treasurer.

Father Osborne is semi-retired and in residence at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Homer Glen. The founding pastor, he ministered to that faith community from 1996 to 2006.

Mail for Father Osborne may be sent to Our Mother of Good Counsel Rectory, 15430 Sulky Drive, Homer Glen, IL 60491-7991.



*The Viatorian Community
congratulates these jubilarians
who ministered in the Diocese of Peoria:*

*70 Years of Religious Life
Father Simon P. Lefebvre, CSV*

*50 Years of Priesthood
Rev. Alan M. Syslo, CSV
Rev. John E. Van Wiel, CSV*



*Congratulations and Best Wishes
from the staff and parishioners of*

**Blessed
Sacrament**
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Morton

Former Galesburg teacher, principal marking 80 years

Sister Charles Ellen Turk, SP
80 years



from 1964 to 1968, and served as the principal and guidance counselor there from 1968 to 1969.

She also has ministered in Indiana and Missouri.

ORDER: Sisters of Providence

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Ministry of prayer

ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Jan. 1, 1936

MINISTRIES: Sister Charles Ellen taught at Costa Catholic High School in Galesburg

Two formats used for jubilarian listings

The 63 women religious featured in Jubilarians 2016 have devoted their consecrated lives to pastoral ministry, social work, the arts, health care and community leadership, in addition to teaching — some for as many as 75 and 80 years. The brief biographical sketches found on these pages include details of their ministry in the Diocese of Peoria, how they plan to celebrate their jubilees, and where congratulatory cards and notes may be sent.

Those who are natives of the Diocese of Peoria also were asked to provide details about where they were born, their home parishes, and advanced education.

In addition, each jubilarian was invited to answer three questions:

- Who or what attracted you to consecrated life?
- What has been the most satisfying aspect of your vocation and why?
- What advice would you offer someone considering a vocation to consecrated life?

Excerpts from their comments can be found at the end of their listings.

Sisters continue to offer ministry of prayer, presence at 75 years

Sister Julia Acosta, BVM
(Lorenzo)
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



CURRENT ASSIGNMENT:

Retired

ADDRESS: Mount Carmel Motherhouse, 1150 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1943

MINISTRIES: Sister Julia taught at Catholic

elementary and secondary schools in Illinois, Iowa and Tennessee. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Joseph School in Rock Island from 1946 to 1948.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A celebration with a liturgy and dinner will be held at Mount Carmel on Sept. 11.

Sister Marie Kevin Claybaugh, OP
75 years

ORDER: Sinsinawa Dominicans

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired and living in residence at St. Dominic Villa

ADDRESS: c/o Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824 or



sinsinawa.org/jubilarians
HOME PARISH: St. Dominic, Wyoming

PROFESSED VOWS: 1941

MINISTRIES: Sister Marie Kevin taught at Catholic schools in Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska and

Minnesota, and served in transportation at Queen of Peace Ministry Center in Chicago for 10 years.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, June 5, in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound.

Sister Agnes Eugene Cordak, SP
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT:

Ministry of prayer

ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Sept. 14, 1941

MINISTRIES: A longtime educator, Sister Agnes Eugene served at Catholic schools

PLEASE TURN TO 75 YEARS B12

Congratulations and God's blessings to



Sister Mary Jane Dawson, OSF
(50 years)



Msgr. Michael C. Bliss
(25 years)



Father Rogers Byambaasa, AJ
(25 years)

OSF Saint Anthony Health Center
Alton, Illinois

OSF Healthcare System
Peoria, Illinois

OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center
Rockford, Illinois

OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
Peoria, Illinois

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
Bloomington, Illinois

OSF St. Mary Medical Center
Galesburg, Illinois

OSF Home Care Services
Peoria, Illinois

OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group
Escanaba, Michigan

OSF Saint Francis, Inc.
Peoria, Illinois

OSF Healthcare Foundation
Peoria, Illinois

OSF Medical Group
Peoria, Illinois

OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center
Pontiac, Illinois

OSF Holy Family Medical Center
Monmouth, Illinois

OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center
Ottawa, Illinois

OSF Saint Luke Medical Center
Kewanee, Illinois

OSF Saint Paul Medical Center
Mendota, Illinois



75 YEARS: Celebrations planned for 11 who are celebrating diamond jubilees of service to people of God

FROM B11

in Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Joseph School in Galesburg from 1945 to 1946.

Sister Mary Placidia Kuligot, CSSF
75 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer ministry

ADDRESS: Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: June 29, 1941, at Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Placidia was a teacher at Catholic schools in Illinois and Minnesota, and was involved in supportive services at St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught grades four, five and six at St. Hyacinth School in LaSalle from 1952 to 1959.

Sister Mary Enid Lodding, BVM
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired

ADDRESS: Marian Hall, 1050 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003



ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1944

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Enid taught first grade at Sacred Heart School in Rock Island from 1950 to 1953, and St. Anne School in East Moline from 1959 to 1961. She also taught in Tennessee,

Washington and Iowa, and served in pastoral ministry and as director of religious education in Iowa and Illinois.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A celebration with a liturgy and dinner will be held at Mount Carmel on Sept. 11.

Sister Marciana Lynch, OSF
75 years

ORDER: Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Ministry of prayer and volunteer services

ADDRESS: St. Francis Convent, 4849 LaVerna Road, Springfield, IL 62707

PROFESSED VOWS: Oct. 4, 1941, at St. Francis Convent, Springfield

MINISTRIES: Trained as a nurse, Sister Marciana served in a hospital

maternity ward, and was supervisor and coordinator of a school of practical nursing. She also worked as an administrative assistant at St. Francis Convent and was director/staff assistant



of materials management at the corporate office. In the Diocese of Peoria, Sister Marciana ministered at St. Mary's Hospital in Streator from 1944 to 1945 and from 1970 to 1974.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Franciscan community will honor its jubilarians on June 4 (invitation only).

Sister Laurita Joseph Nemec, CSJ
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer and presence

ADDRESS: Nazareth Living Center, 2 Nazareth Lane, St. Louis, MO 63129

RECEPTION OF HABIT: Aug. 15, 1941, in St. Louis

MINISTRIES: A teacher for nearly 50 years, Sister Laurita Joseph served in Colorado, Georgia, Missouri and Illinois. In the Diocese

of Peoria, she taught at St. Mary's Cathedral School in Peoria from 1949 to 1952.

COMMENTS: Sister Laurita Joseph said she was attracted to consecrated life by "my dear mother" and the Sisters who taught her in grade school. In turn, the most satisfying aspect of her vocation has been "teaching children about God."

Her advice to those discerning a religious vocation is simple: "Go with God."

Sister Marie Irene Petrykowski, CSSF
75 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer ministry

ADDRESS: Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: June 29, 1941, at Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Marie Irene has been a teacher and principal at Catholic elementary schools and high schools in Illinois and Wisconsin, and also served as an archivist aide at Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Chicago. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught first



grade at St. Hyacinth School in LaSalle from 1950 to 1957.

Sister Martha Ritter, CSJ
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer and presence

ADDRESS: Nazareth Living Center, 2 Nazareth Lane, St. Louis, MO 63129

RECEPTION OF HABIT: March 19, 1941, in St. Louis

MINISTRIES: The longtime educator was a teacher and principal at Catholic schools in Illinois, Missouri, Michigan and Georgia. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Cecilia School in Peoria from 1946 to 1956. Sister Martha also served her community as secretary for the administrative offices at the motherhouse.



Sister Mary Frances Shafer, BVM
(Francis Edward)
75 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired

ADDRESS: Caritas Center, 1130 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003
ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1943

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Frances taught eighth grade and served as principal at St. Mary School in Pontiac from 1959 to 1965. She also

taught at Catholic elementary schools in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa, as well as Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. She was diocesan director of lay ministry in Stockett and diocesan researcher in Great Falls, both in Montana, and personnel director for the Diocese of Joliet. She has served her community as vice president and president.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A celebration with a liturgy and dinner will be held at Mount Carmel on Sept. 11.



**Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
from the staff
and parishioners at**



**St. Mary,
Downs**

**St. Patrick
Church of Merna,
Bloomington**



**Our prayers are
with all the Jubilarians!
Historic St. Patrick Parish
Bloomington, Illinois**



Schools, parishes around the diocese benefit for seven decades

Sister Ann Albrecht, CSJ
(Thomas Borgia)
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer and presence

ADDRESS: Nazareth Living Center, 2 Nazareth Lane, St. Louis, MO 63129

RECEPTION OF HABIT: March 19, 1946, in St. Louis

MINISTRIES: Sister Ann served as a teacher or principal at Catholic schools in Illinois, Missouri,

Kansas and Georgia, and was involved in deaf ministry for nearly 40 years. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at Holy Cross School in Champaign from 1948 to 1960.

Sister Joanne Cullins, SP
(Timothy)
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer receptionist at Providence Self Sufficiency Ministries in Georgetown, Indiana

ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Jan. 9, 1946

MINISTRIES: Sister Joanne served as a teacher at St. Joseph School in Galesburg from 1952 to 1953. She also ministered in Indiana and Maryland.

Sister M. Guadalupe De La O, OSF
70 years

ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired

ADDRESS: St. Francis Woods, 9201 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort, IL 60423-8330

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 18, 1946, in Joliet

MINISTRIES: For much of her consecrated life, Sister M. Guadalupe did retreat

work or was a teacher, catechist, parish assistant or directress of aspirants in Brazil. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served as a second grade teacher at St. Joseph School in Peru from 1950 to 1955.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

Sister Marie Brendan Harvey, SP
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Moderator of Providence High School alumnae in Eagle River, Wisconsin

ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-



the-Woods, IN 47876
ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Feb. 2, 1946

MINISTRIES: Sister Marie Brendan has served in Indiana, Wisconsin, Montana, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois. Her

ministry in the Diocese of Peoria took her to the University of Illinois in Champaign, where she was a development assistant in the College of Fine/Applied Art from 1990 to 1995.

Sister Helen Jeanne Hurley, BVM
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer tutor in Chicago

ADDRESS: c/o Mount Carmel Motherhouse, 1150 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1946

MINISTRIES: Sister Helen Jeanne taught second and third grades at Sacred Heart School in Rock Island from 1949 to 1953, and first grade at St. Anne School in East Moline from

1953 to 1957. She also was a teacher and administrator at Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Chicago.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A celebration with a liturgy and dinner will be held at Mount Carmel on Sept. 11.



Sister Irene Krogmeier, OSB
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Benedict

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired

ADDRESS: St. Mary Monastery, 2200 88th Avenue W, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649

HOMETOWN: Fort Madison, Iowa

PROFESSED VOWS: July 11, 1946

MINISTRIES: Sister Irene has ministered as a housekeeper at St. Mary in Moline, St. Boniface and Holy Family in Peoria, and St. Mary Monastery in Nauvoo and Rock Island.

CELEBRATION PLANS: Sister Irene celebrated with her Benedictine community in March.



Sister Mary Therese Lukas, CSSF
70 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Spiritual direction and prayer ministry

ADDRESS: Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: July 2, 1946, at Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary

Therese has served as a teacher or



director of religious education in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Her assignments also brought her to Peoria, where she taught first and second grades at Holy Family School.

Sister Christine Massman, CSJ
(Mary Joanna)
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer and presence

ADDRESS: Nazareth Living Center, 2 Nazareth Lane, St. Louis, MO 63129

RECEPTION OF HABIT: March 19, 1946, in St. Louis

MINISTRIES: Sister Christine worked as a teacher and religious education

coordinator in Missouri and Illinois. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served at St. Cecilia School in Peoria from 1959 to 1963. In addition, she ministered as a spiritual director until she retired in 2012.

Sister Mary Ann Schmitz, SMP
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of Mary of the Presentation
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Nursing home chaplain

ADDRESS: Maryvale, 1348 Sixth St. South,



Prayerful Congratulations to all the Jubilarians who have so graciously given to serve this Diocese, especially,

Father Joseph Donton

Monsignor Philip Halfacre

Sister Margaret Murphy, OSB

who served our parish!

From the people of
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Peoria Heights



"The most satisfying aspect of my vocation was the 40 years I spent at St. Patrick School in Washington.

The pastors . . . were dedicated to Catholic education as were the parishioners."



Sister Mary Ann Schmitz, SMP

Fargo, ND 58103

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 22, 1946, in Spring Valley

MINISTRIES: A longtime educator, Sister Mary Ann taught in Catholic schools in North Dakota from 1946 to 1963, when she came to St. Patrick School in Washington. She would serve as principal there until 2003. Parish and school officials honored her by naming the gym the Sister Mary Ann Schmitz Gymnasium in 2011.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation are planning a private

PLEASE TURN TO 70 YEARS B14

Putting Gospel into practice brings satisfaction for 60 years

Sister Maureen Abbot, SP
(Maureen Frances)
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Community historian for the Sisters of Providence
ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876
ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: July 22, 1956



MINISTRIES: Sister Maureen has ministered in Indiana, California, Texas, Oregon and Illinois. In the Diocese of Peoria, she was principal at Costa Catholic School in Galesburg from 1979 to 1982.

Sister Mary Joyce Bringer, CSJ
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Parish minister at Little Flower Church, Mobile, Alabama
ADDRESS: 359 Pinehill, Mobile, AL 36606



HOMETOWN: Peoria
HOME PARISH: St. Bernard, Peoria
RECEPTION OF HABIT: March 19, 1956, in St. Louis
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Fontbonne

College, St. Louis, and master's degrees in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame and elementary education administration from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Joyce gave 45 years of her consecrated life to education, serving as a teacher or principal in Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia and Missouri. She began her teaching career at Little Flower School in Mobile, Alabama, and returned to serve as principal for 23 years. She has been a parish minister there since 2005.

COMMENTS: "I believe the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Academy of Our Lady in Peoria were my inspiration," Sister Mary Joyce said of her vocation, adding that

her parents' lives of service to their church and community played a role. "I have always enjoyed being of service to others. The religious life gave me that opportunity," she said. "I have enjoyed all the places I have been and the people I have met. It has been a great way to serve God."

A willingness to serve others is an important consideration for anyone discerning consecrated life, Sister Mary Joyce said, noting that "the Sisters of St. Joseph have always served the dear neighbor."

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
60 years

ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Chancellor and delegate for religious for the Diocese of Joliet



ADDRESS: Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, IL 60403

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 2, 1956, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort

MINISTRIES: Sister Judith

was a teacher, principal and coordinator of religious education for many years in Illinois, including St. Joseph School in Peru, where she taught first and fourth grades from 1961 to 1964. She has served in the chancery of the Diocese of Joliet since 1989.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

COMMENTS: Sister Judith's inspiration to enter consecrated life was her aunt, Sister Marcellita. Her joy was evident whenever she visited, Sister Judith recalled.

"My brothers and I wanted to be around her and would jockey for positions next to her when she would pray the Divine Office. Deep in my heart, I wanted to be like her, to be someone who was happy in following the Lord," Sister Judith said.

Being of service to others has been the

"It is through the people I speak with on the telephone or meet with face to face that give me opportunities to put the Gospel into practice each day. I could not ask for anything more!"

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

most satisfying aspect of her vocation as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart.

"It is through the people I speak with on the telephone or meet with face to face that give me opportunities to put the Gospel into practice each day," she said. "I could not ask for anything more!"

Sister Judith said those who are discerning a vocation to consecrated life should remember that it requires a leap of faith, but said, "God will always be there to catch you."

Sister Georgianna Dorsey, OP
(Germana)
60 years

ORDER: Sinsinawa Dominicans

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer at the motherhouse and St. Rose School, Cuba City, Wisconsin

ADDRESS: c/o Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585



County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824 or sinsinawa.org/jubilarians

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 5, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Georgianna was a teacher or principal at schools in

Wisconsin, Illinois and New York. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at Holy Trinity School in Bloomington from 1957 to 1959, and St. Bernard School in Peoria, from 1963 to 1968 and 1979 to 1984. She also served as principal at St. Bernard from 1984 to 1989.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, June 5, in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound.

Sister Mary Clare Fichtner, OP
60 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, Missouri

ADDRESS: 1922 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203-1110

PROFESSED VOWS: Jan. 4, 1956, at Sacred Heart

Convent, Springfield
MINISTRIES: A longtime educator at schools throughout Illinois, Sister Mary Clare's service also

has included a ministry of presence on the east side of Springfield. In the



70 YEARS: Seeking more responders to God's call

FROM B13

Mass and festive meal for their jubilarians on Sunday, June 26.

COMMENTS: Sister Mary Ann got acquainted with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation when they taught two weeks of religion to her and her classmates during the summer. Soon they were staffing St. Cecilia School in Harvey, North Dakota.

"The most satisfying aspect of my vocation was the 40 years I spent at St. Patrick School in Washington," she said. "The pastors, Father Henry Schubert, Father Robert Hughes and Msgr. James Swaner, were dedicated to Catholic education as were the parishioners. The response was awesome!"

"Listen intently at prayer" is her advice to someone considering consecrated life.

"I believe God is calling," Sister Mary Ann said. "We need listeners and responders."

Sister Mary Lucia Skalka, CSSF
70 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Laundry services and prayer ministry

ADDRESS: Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1946, at



Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Lucia served as an elementary school teacher, culinarian and occupational therapist in Illinois and Wisconsin, and also ministered in

France. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught kindergarten at St. Valentine School in Peru from 1954 to 1958.

Sister Lois Ann Stoiber, SP
70 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Convent services in River Grove

ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Feb. 2, 1946

MINISTRIES: Sister Lois Ann's consecrated life has taken her to Indiana and Illinois. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught in Galesburg at Immaculate Heart of Mary School from

1958 to 1967, and returned to serve as a teacher and principal from 1969 to 1972. She also taught at Costa Catholic School in Galesburg from 1972 to 1973.



Congratulations, prayers and best wishes to all
Jubilarians and those celebrating
special Anniversaries this year from the
Rock Island Vicariate.

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service and
commitment to the Church in the Diocese of Peoria
in our parishes, schools, or special assignments.

May the Lord reward and bless you for your many years of
generous service. Thank you for the witness of your life to Jesus.

Diocese of Peoria, she was principal at Holy Cross School in Mendota from 1982 to 1988. She has been pastoral associate at Sacred Heart in Columbia, Missouri, since 2012.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

COMMENTS: "The wholesome grace and practical attitudes toward problem-solving of the Springfield Dominican Sisters I knew at my school in Richmond, Michigan, attracted me," Sister Mary Clare said. "The spirit of continuing to pioneer in ministry and the willingness of so many Sisters to live an itinerant form of poverty has captivated me all my life."

Sister Lauretana Gorman, OP
60 years

ORDER: Sinsinawa Dominicans
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral minister at St. John Vianney, Janesville, Wisconsin



ADDRESS: c/o Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585 County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824 or sinsinawa.org/jubilarians

PROFESSED VOWS: 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Lauretana's ministry

has been devoted to teaching and pastoral ministry in Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at Holy Trinity School in Bloomington from 1981 to 1987.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, June 5, in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound.

Marilyn Jean Hagedorn, CHM
60 years

ORDER: Congregation of the Humility of Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Peace and justice advocacy



ADDRESS: 1657 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Marilyn Jean was an elementary school teacher for many years, and served as

director of religious education for the Diocese of Des Moines, taught English as a Second Language, and has been peace and justice coordinator for her community. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught first grade at St. Pius X School in Rock Island from 1964 to 1965.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, June 26, at 2 p.m. at Christ the King Chapel of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. She will celebrate at another Mass on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 9:30 a.m. at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston, Iowa.

Sister Rita Louise Huebner, CSJ
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired/volunteer

ADDRESS: Sacred Heart Community, 6400 Minnesota Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111

RECEPTION OF HABIT: March 19, 1956



MINISTRIES: In addition to teaching at Catholic schools in Illinois, Georgia, Missouri and Indiana, Sister Rita Louise has served her community in a variety of ways, including as communications director

and congregational archivist. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Mary's Cathedral School in Peoria from 1960 to 1961.

COMMENTS: Sister Rita Louise was attracted to religious life by her teachers, who were happy, loved their students, and enjoyed one another. "I wanted to share in their life," she said.

"Most satisfying for me has been the support of my community as it educated me for a ministry of teaching; encouraged the development of my gifts, and offered me a wide variety of experiences for personal growth and service to others," she writes.

Her advice to persons considering religious life is to confide in someone they trust, join with others who are searching the same vocation, and visit communities that hold some interest.

"Be faithful to daily prayer," Sister Rita Louise said.

Sister M. Ruthanne Huss, OP
60 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Librarian at Sacred Heart Convent



ADDRESS: 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704

PROFESSED VOWS: Jan. 4, 1956, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

MINISTRIES: A teacher, principal and librarian at Catholic schools in Illinois,

Sister M. Ruthanne also has worked in religious education. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Paul School in Odell from 1957 to 1958, and Holy Cross School in Mendota from 1971 to 1972.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

COMMENTS: The Dominican and Franciscan Sisters who taught Sister M. Ruthanne encouraged her vocation. "I've enjoyed my life," she said.

Sister Mary Frances Keusal, SP
(Ann Marion)
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of Providence

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer in hospice bereavement/ministry to the homebound



ADDRESS: c/o Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876

ENTRANCE TO CONGREGATION: Jan. 4, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Frances taught at St. Joseph School in Galesburg from 1969 to 1970. She also taught and served as assistant principal at Costa Catholic,

also in Galesburg, from 1980 to 1983. In addition, she ministered in Indiana and Oklahoma.

Sister Mary Antoinette
Koprowski, CSSF
60 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Prayer ministry

ADDRESS: Our Lady of the Angels Convent, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659



ENTRANCE TO ORDER: June 16, 1956, at Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: A longtime educator at elementary and secondary schools

in Illinois and Minnesota, Sister Mary Antoinette also was involved in pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Gary, Indiana. Her teaching ministry brought her to LaSalle, where she taught seventh grade at St. Hyacinth School.

Sister Joanne Marie Lucid, BVM
(Michael Mary)
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired



ADDRESS: Marian Hall, 1050 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Joanne Marie taught religion at St. Joseph and then Alleman

High School in Rock Island from 1963 to 1968. She also taught secondary school in Iowa, served as novice director for her community, and ministered as a pastoral care chaplain and AIDS ministry coordinator and director in Duluth and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sister Colleen McNicholas, OP
(Mary Avia)
60 years

ORDER: Sinsinawa Dominicans

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer research assistant at the McGreal Center in River Forest

ADDRESS: c/o Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585



County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824 or sinsinawa.org/jubilarians

PROFESSED VOWS: Sept. 21, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Colleen's ministry as a teacher and administrator has taken

her to Illinois, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Iowa, Minnesota, and New York. In the Diocese of Peoria, she was principal at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington from 1969 to 1974 and associate superintendent of schools from 1975 to 1980. She also was director of sponsored ministry for the Sinsinawa Dominicans and worked as education chair, dean of the School of Education and director of the online graduate program at Dominican University in River Forest.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, June 5, in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound.

Sister Mary Jean Morris, OSF
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Director of initial formation for the Joliet Franciscans



ADDRESS: 1433 Essington Road, Joliet, IL 60435-2873

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Jean taught or served as an administrator at schools in Ohio and Illinois, including

St. Matthew School in Champaign, where she was principal from 1966 to 1970. She was also facilitator of graduate students for the Loyola Institute of Pastoral Ministry in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition, she served as a pastoral associate for two parishes in Ohio, and was mission coordinator of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Bruce, Mississippi, from 2001 to 2011. She led her religious community as president from 1992 to 2000.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate will honor their jubilarians at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, June 11, at the Cathedral of St.

PLEASE TURN TO 60 YEARS B16

Our prayers are with all the Jubilarians . . . Congratulations and God's blessing



**St. John XXIII,
Henry**



**Immaculate Conception,
Lacon**

60 YEARS: Living in community, where all ages pray together and learn from each other, has been satisfying

FROM B15

Raymond in Joliet.

COMMENTS: Sister Mary Jean says her ministry has been a means to nourish her love for the poor and her enthusiasm for interfaith ministry.

Sister Kathleen Mullin, BVM
(Robert Mary)
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral associate

ADDRESS: Sacred Heart

Parish, 1608 13th St.,

Moline, IL 61265

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1956

MINISTRIES: Sister Kathleen taught first and second grade at St. Joseph School in Rock Island from 1962

to 1964, and has been engaged in pastoral ministry at Sacred Heart Parish in Moline since 1989. She also taught in elementary schools in Davenport, Iowa, and Chicago, and was a college instructor and librarian in Dubuque. While there, she was a regional representative for her community. In addition, Sister Kathleen was involved in pastoral ministry in San Francisco.

Sister Margaret Murphy, OSB
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Benedict

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Spiritual direction, directed retreats and programs at Benet House Retreat Center

ADDRESS: St. Mary Monastery, 2200 88th Avenue W, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649

HOMETOWN: Carthage

HOME PARISH: Immaculate

Conception, Carthage

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 25, 1956

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa; master's degree in education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;

trained in spiritual direction through the Aquinas Institute of Theology

MINISTRIES: Sister Margaret taught at schools around the Diocese of Peoria, including Immaculate Conception School in Monmouth (1957-58 and 1963-65), Holy Family School in Peoria (1958-63 and 1982-87), St. Mary School in Moline (1965-76), South Side Catholic School in Peoria (1976-82 and 1995-98), Holy Trinity School in Bloomington (1987-92), and St. Thomas the Apostle School in Peoria Heights (1998-2010).

Sister Patricia Murphy, CSJ
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Uganda Project in Gulu

ADDRESS: Sisters of St.

Joseph, P.O. Box 409,

Uganda, East Africa

RECEPTION OF HABIT: March

19, 1956, in St. Louis

MINISTRIES: Sister Pat

taught for more than 40

years at Catholic grade

schools and high schools

in Missouri, Illinois and Hawaii. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at Holy Cross School in Champaign from 1983 to 1984. In 2008, she went to Gulu, Uganda, to begin a new ministry to provide health care, education and catechetical training to the Acholi people. She returned to the United States for three years, offering spiritual support to a prisoner on death row. She went back to Uganda last year and now serves as a computer teacher and a trainer in a new water filtration initiative.

COMMENTS: "When I was in fifth grade, a speaker told us that the Sisters of St. Joseph operated an orphanage. Immediately, I decided to become a member of this community," Sister Pat said.

She first met the Sisters of St. Joseph when she worked at St. Joseph's Home for Boys in St. Louis during her high school years. She was taught by and loved both the Sisters of St. Joseph and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, but felt called to the Sisters of St. Joseph and

said, "God uses all sorts of means to speak to our hearts!"

Being able to "serve the dear neighbor without distinction" and having the support of her community have been rewarding. Sister Pat also has enjoyed being able to serve in many different locations.

"More deeply, though, the most satisfying aspects have been all of the opportunities and developing a closer relationship with God," she said. "I was exposed to speakers, books, discussions, daily prayer patterns, challenges due to life situations shared with the other Sisters. . . . I learned that God lives in me and loves me."

If someone feels God is calling them to join a religious community, they should get in touch with a member of that community, Sister Pat suggested.

"Begin a conversation about the life you want to live. Ask yourself why you want to become a religious, why do you wish to join this particular community. Try to put words on what attracts you there," she said.

It would be helpful to try out the life of the community for a time, if possible, she added.

Prayer is also key, Sister Pat said.

"Ask for God's guidance. God will help you find the right person to consult, to share your heart with," she advised, noting that this person may ask some difficult questions or suggest a place or activity that does not appeal to them.

"Get to know yourself in new ways and explore those other realities," she said. "Religious life can be challenging, but the rewards are worth the risk."

Sister Alice Marie Rogers, OSF
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Francis of the

Immaculate Conception

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Ministry of presence

ADDRESS: St. Joseph Convent, 1002 School St., Henry, IL 61537

HOMETOWN: Rock Island

HOME PARISH: Sacred Heart,

Rock Island

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 12, 1956

EDUCATION: Sister Alice Marie trained as a

registered nurse at St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Rock Island. She also holds a bachelor's degree in education from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa.

MINISTRIES: A longtime teacher in the primary and intermediate grades, Sister Alice Marie served at St. Mary School in Canton (1956-58), St. Philomena School in Peoria (1958-59 and 1974-81), St. Catherine Parish in Aledo (1959-60), St. Joseph School in Pekin (1960-63), St. Mary School in Metamora (1963-68), St.

Mary School in Peru (1968-74), Epiphany School in Normal (1981-83), Immaculate Conception Convent in West Peoria (1983-84), and South Side Catholic School in Peoria (1984-89).

After taking refresher courses in nursing in 1989, Sister Alice Marie ministered as a wing supervisor and registered nurse at St. Joseph's Home in Peoria from 1990 to 1996, and then as a staff nurse from 1996 to 2005. She would work as a staff nurse for three more years at St. Joseph's Home in Lacon before beginning a ministry of presence at the Lacon facility and at parish and community functions in 2008.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A community celebration is planned.

COMMENTS: Sister Alice Marie said she was around Sisters all through grade school and high school and felt the love and concern they showed their students and families.

"I also observed how they interacted with each other outside of school times," she said.

The most satisfying aspect of her vocation has been living in community, where all age groups pray together, learn and share life experiences, no matter what work they are called to do.

"Pray for the grace to know what God is calling you to do," is Sister Alice Marie's advice to those discerning a vocation to consecrated life. "You may be restless for awhile until you decide, but peace can come when you give generously of yourself in response."

Sister M. Celestine Rondelli, OP
60 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral care at

St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi

ADDRESS: 969 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216-4606

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 5, 1956, at Sacred Heart

Convent, Springfield

MINISTRIES: A longtime

teacher in Illinois and Colorado, Sister M. Celestine has been engaged in pastoral care at hospitals in Kentucky and Mississippi since 2000. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Paul School in Odell from 1956 to 1959.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

COMMENTS: Sister M. Celestine said she was influenced by the Dominican Sisters from kindergarten through grade school.

"I loved them dearly, watched them closely, and saw in them a deep love of God, and also a love for life and people," she explained. "I listened to them tell

Congratulations and
Best Wishes
from the staff
and parishioners at

St. Ambrose Parish in Milan.

Gospel stories and the lives of the saints, and saw how their lives mirrored what they taught. They were authentic. I wanted to be just like them."

Sister Mary M. Schmidt, OSB
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Benedict
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Spiritual director and sacristan at St. Mary Monastery
ADDRESS: St. Mary Monastery, 2200 88th Avenue W, Rock Island, IL 61201-7649



HOMETOWN: Bradford
HOME PARISH: St. John the Baptist, Bradford
PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 25, 1956
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in education with a minor in English from St. Ambrose College,

Davenport, Iowa; master's degree in religious studies from Mundelein College, Chicago; certificate in spiritual direction from Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota, and Mount Angel Abbey, Oregon.

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary's chief areas of ministry have been education, religious education and social ministry. She taught at St. Roch School in LaSalle (1956-57), St. Anthony School in Atkinson (1959-61), St. John the Baptist School in Bradford (1961-63), Holy Family School in Peoria (1963-66), and St. Mary School in Moline (1966-69), and served at the Benedictine Religious Education Center at St. Bede Abbey in Peru (1970-95). She also ministered as a social minister and faith formation director at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport.

CELEBRATION PLANS: Sister Mary will celebrate with her Benedictine community.

COMMENTS: Attracted to consecrated life by the Benedictines who taught her at St. John the Baptist School in Bradford and St. Mary Academy in Nauvoo, Sister Mary said she found them to be prayerful and joyful women — and they still are.

She said being with the parishioners and seeing them grow in their understanding of Scripture has been one of the most satisfying aspects of her vocation.

Her advice to women considering religious life?

"Check out communities, live with them for a time, [and] discern how this life fits into yours," Sister Mary said. "Stop putting a decision off and be committed. Pray a lot."

Sister JoAn Schullian, OSF
60 years

ORDER: Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral associate at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Decatur



ADDRESS: 3850 Lourdes Drive, Decatur, IL 62526
PROFESSED VOWS: June 13, 1956, at St. Francis Convent, Springfield
MINISTRIES: Sister JoAn has worked in hospital administration and pastoral care, as well

as in parish ministry. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served at St. Mary's Hospital in Streator from 1974 to 1979 and from 1985 to 1988, and was a team member for Father Ron Roth Ministries in Peoria from 1988 to 1992.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Franciscan community will honor its jubilarians on June 4 (invitation only).

Sister Rose Therese Sevigny, SMP
60 years

ORDER: Sisters of Mary of the Presentation
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Working in community and library/archives
ADDRESS: Maryvale, 1348 Sixth St. South, Fargo, ND 58103



PROFESSED VOWS: 1956 in Spring Valley
MINISTRIES: Sister Rose Therese's chief area of ministry has been education. She served at St. Patrick School in Washington from 1968 to 1974, 1993 to 1996, and

2001 to 2005; and St. Louis School in Princeton from 1980 to 1984 and 1996 to 2001.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Sisters of Mary of the Presentation are planning a private Mass and festive meal for their jubilarians on Sunday, June 26.

COMMENTS: Sister Rose Therese attended 12 years of school with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation and was attracted by their life. In turn, the most satisfying aspect of her consecrated life has been the time she spent teaching children, as well as community life.

She encouraged those who feel called to consecrated life to pray and listen to their hearts.

"God speaks. Don't be afraid to try it," Sister Rose Therese said. "You really won't miss a thing. You miss a personal family, but all you will have will be a great reward. Jesus promised the hundredfold."

Sister Rose Therese Sevigny, SMP

*"God speaks.
Don't be afraid to
try it. You really
won't miss a
thing. You miss a
personal family,
but all you will
have will be a
great reward.
Jesus promised
the hundredfold."*

Sister Floria M. Shannon, BVM
60 years



ORDER: Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Volunteer
ADDRESS: c/o Mount Carmel Motherhouse, 1150 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003
ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8,

1956
MINISTRIES: Sister Floria taught fourth, fifth and sixth grades and was vice principal

at St. Anne School in East Moline from 1964 to 1981. She also taught elementary school in Chicago and Davenport, Iowa, and served as administrator and receptionist for the BVM congregation in Dubuque.

Sister M. Dorothea Sondgeroth, OP
60 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Associate executive director, St. Dominic Health Services Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi
ADDRESS: 969 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216-4606



HOMETOWN: Peterstown
HOME PARISH: Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown

PROFESSED VOWS: Aug. 5, 1956, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in home economics from Marycrest, Davenport, Iowa; master's degrees in dietetics and health care administration from Saint Louis University, St. Louis; registered dietitian

MINISTRIES: While Sister Dorothea has not ministered in her home diocese, she has been a teacher at the elementary and high school level in Illinois, and served on the leadership team for her community from 1983 to 1993. She was named CEO and chair of the board at St. Dominic Health Services in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1995, and has been associate executive director of the foundation there since 2012.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

COMMENTS: Sister Dorothea felt she had a vocation to consecrated life, but fought it because "I liked to dance, party and date!"

"One of the young men I was dating indicated he was also fighting a vocation to the priesthood. I ended the relationship because I felt I was standing in the way of his vocation, and then I came to peace with my own call," she said. "The young man I was dating entered the seminary after he graduated from the University of Illinois, and we both lived happily ever after in service to God and the Church."

Sister Delphine Vasquez, CHM
(Mary Delphine)
60 years

ORDER: Congregation of the Humility of Mary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Retired

ADDRESS: Humility of Mary Center, 820 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1965



MINISTRIES: A former Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire and Ecuador, Sister Delphine also taught Spanish at the high school and college levels. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught sixth grade at St. Pius X School in Rock

Island from 1965 to 1966, and Spanish at Alleman High School, also in Rock Island, from 1983 to 1985.

KELLY

FROM B3

turning to central Illinois two years ago, he has worked with a group of former parishioners and friends to reflect on the Sunday readings in Advent and Lent and hopes to pick that up when Ordinary Time resumes.

"I prepare a little lesson outline and share with them some ideas. Then we have a great discussion," followed by coffee and coffeecake, said Father Kelly. "I really like doing that."

The group currently meets at homes in Bartonville, where he served as pastor of St. Anthony Parish for 14 years and oversaw construction of the church.

When he arrived in Bartonville, there was a multipurpose building that hosted spaghetti dinners and other parish functions, as well as Mass. When a parish leader came to him and said they needed a church, Father Kelly demurred.

"I didn't want to get tied up in brick and mortar. I wanted to be involved with the people," he told The Post. But his petitioner persisted.

"They're not mutually exclusive, Kelly," he was told.

Father Kelly talks about the "beautiful brick" and "wonderful wood" in the church with pride and joy, adding that the design allows for a lot of natural light to brighten the worship space.

Like his classmate, Father Kelly welcomed the RCIA process and what it brought to the parish, giving over the lower part of the rectory at St. Anthony for the group to meet.

His ministry also involved creative years at St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign and the St. Joseph Newman Center at Bradley University in Peoria.

In addition, he was part of the last leg of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965 in support of racial equality and the Voting Rights Act, and heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak when they arrived.

Father Kelly's parish work took him to St. Joseph in Rock Island and St. Paul in Odell as parochial vicar. He served as co-pastor and then pastor of St. Columba in Ottawa, and then administrator at St. Mary in Tiskilwa, before going to St. Anthony in Bartonville in 1985.

One of the ways he has continued to share the word of God is by writing Scripture reflections for The Catholic Post. His next columns will cover the 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 5) and the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time (June 19).

Mail for Father Kelly may be sent to Independence Village, 2001 W. Northmoor Road Apt. 210, Peoria, IL 61614. He also welcomes email, which may be sent to tkel1930@yahoo.com.

Blessings flow from sharing lives, love of God for five decades

Sister Mary Camille Bena, CSSF
50 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT:



Receptionist
ADDRESS: St. Joseph Academy, 1600 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53215
ENTRANCE TO ORDER: June 19, 1966, at Mother of Good Counsel Convent, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Camille has dedicated her consecrated life to education. She served at Catholic schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, including the Diocese of Peoria, where she was principal at St. Hyacinth School in LaSalle from 1982 to 1985.

Sister Mary Ann Casey, OP
(Marie Miguel)
50 years

ORDER: Sinsinawa Dominicans
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Director of religious education at St. Francis Xavier, Wilmette
ADDRESS: c/o Sinsinawa Dominicans, 585



County Road Z, Sinsinawa, WI 53824 or sinsinawa.org/jubilarians

PROFESSED VOWS: 1966
MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Ann's ministry has been dedicated to teaching and religious education in Illinois, Wisconsin and

New York. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at Visitation School in Kewanee from 1977 to 1982. She also has served in initial formation for the Sinsinawa Dominican congregation.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass is planned for Sunday, July 10, in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound.

Sister Mary Jane Dawson, OSF
50 years

ORDER: The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Motherhouse liturgy committee and coordinator of the annual



bazaar
ADDRESS: 1175 St. Francis Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611
ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1966, at Mount Alverno Novitiate, East Peoria
MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Jane's service in the

Diocese of Peoria includes work as a file clerk in medical records at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria (1969-72) and nursing service there (1973-74), nursing service at St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg (1974-76), and pastoral care services there (1986-88), dental assistant at the motherhouse in East Peoria (1989-2012), and chairperson of the mission committee at the motherhouse. She also ministered in nursing service at St. Francis Hospital in Escanaba, Michigan (1976-82), and pastoral care services at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford (1982-86). She has coordinated the annual bazaar at the motherhouse since 1989.

CELEBRATION PLANS: Sister Mary Jane celebrated with her Franciscan community and invited guests at a Mass and "festive dinner" on May 17.

COMMENTS: A devotion to the Blessed Mother from an early age assisted Sister Mary Jane in answering a call to consecrated life. She also cited the influence of the Sisters who taught her in school.

"When I received my First Holy Communion it had a great effect on my life," she added. "I have been very grateful to receive both the Body and Blood of Christ and treasure being able to bring this sacrament to others."

Sister Mary Jane continues to appreciate "Mother Mary" and ask for her guidance, direction and support.

"I also feel the fulfillment of my vows to God is so important in my daily life," she said. "I am not afraid of the cross because Jesus helps me to carry it."

Her advice to someone considering consecrated life is to have a strong prayer life.

"Spend time in the presence of God, say the Divine Office, receive the important sacraments and, if possible, have a spiritual director to assist . . . on

this important journey," Sister Mary Jane suggested.

Sister Marie Andre Dougherty, OP
50 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Ministry of prayer
ADDRESS: Sacred Heart Convent, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704



PROFESSED VOWS: June 19, 1966, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield
MINISTRIES: A longtime educator in Catholic schools and religious education programs in

Illinois, Sister Marie Andre served as principal at St. Malachy School in Rantoul from 1992 to 1995.

CELEBRATION PLANS: Sister Marie Andre celebrated with her family and local community at Sacred Heart Convent in April. She will also be honored during the Dominican community's private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

Sister Dominic Dybel, OSF
50 years

ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Ecclesial advocate in the Joliet Diocesan Tribunal



ADDRESS: Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Road, Crest Hill, IL 60403

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1966, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort

MINISTRIES: Sister Dominic served as a teacher and director of religious education for many years before going to work for the marriage tribunal of the Diocese of Joliet in 2011. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught eighth grade at Peru Catholic School in Peru from 1980 to 1983.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

COMMENTS: Sister Dominic said she was a freshman in high school when four School Sisters of St. Francis — one of them a good friend of her mother's — were killed in a car accident. As she knelt by the casket to pray, she peered down at the Sister's face and thought she saw a tear.

"At that instant I heard a voice within me asking, 'Who will take my place?'" Sister Dominic said. "Periodically during my high school years that question would resurface."

When she saw an ad to "Come and See" who the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart were, she decided to go and fell in love with the community.

She said there are many reasons why she's grateful for her vocation, including

having time every day to deepen her relationship with Jesus through community and private prayer, which renews her. Being Sister to the Sisters she has lived with in community and having that relationship in return has helped her to grow as a follower of Christ, she added.

Sister Dominic also called it a privilege to work with God's people in each ministry.

"I have been so blessed to be able to laugh and cry with so many people who have welcomed me into their hearts and homes throughout my 50 years as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart," she said.

Her advice to someone considering consecrated life is, "Be not afraid."

"Keep asking yourself, 'What is God asking me to do with my life?' Think of your gifts and how you can use them for the Lord's service," she said. "Contact the delegate for religious in your diocese to put you in contact with some religious congregations if you don't know any."

And don't forget to pray, Sister Dominic said.

"Pray to the Blessed Mother to help you know how to serve her Son best," she said.

Sister Mary Megan Farrelly, OP
50 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Assistant principal and curriculum director at IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst

ADDRESS: St. Mary Convent, 19 S. Root St., Aurora, IL 61505-3411

PROFESSED VOWS: June 19, 1966, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield
MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Megan's ministry has

been dedicated to education at all levels throughout Illinois. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served as a teacher at St. Malachy School in Rantoul from 1973 to 1974, and as principal and teacher at St. Paul School in Odell from 1978 to 1982. She went to IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst in 2007.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

COMMENTS: "All of my years of educational ministry — teaching and administering — have been meaningful to me," Sister Mary Megan said. "The places that stand out are Garfield Alternative High School in Chicago and my years at Rosary High School in Aurora at a time of great expansion of the building."

Sister M. Debrah Funfsinn, OSF
50 years

ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Kindergarten teacher
ADDRESS: Immaculate Conception School, 505 North St., Morris, IL 60450



Our
prayers
are with
all the
Jubilarians!

**From
Logan
County
Roman
Catholic
Congregations**



BORN IN: Spring Valley
HOME PARISH: Sts. Peter and Paul, Mendota
ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1966, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from the University of St. Francis, Joliet, and master's degree from Purdue University, Hammond, Indiana

MINISTRIES: Sister M. Debrah's ministry has been devoted to education, religious education and youth ministry in Illinois and Indiana.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

Sister Linda Hayes, OP
(Jane de Chantal)
50 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Mission Advancement Office at Sacred Heart Convent



ADDRESS: 1225 W. Monroe St., Springfield, IL 62704
PROFESSED VOWS: June 19, 1966, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield
MINISTRIES: In addition to ministering as a teacher, Sister Linda

has served her community as general treasurer, director of corporate social responsibility and in community services. In the Diocese of Peoria, she taught at St. Malachy School in Rantoul from 1967 to 1969, and was principal from 1980 to 1982.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private

celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

Sister Karen Marie Lanigan, OSF
50 years



ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Director of religious education

ADDRESS: St. Paul the Apostle Church, 120 Woodland Ave., Joliet, IL 60436-1598

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1966, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort

MINISTRIES: Sister Karen Marie has been a teacher and principal, and served her religious community as a councilor (1987-89) and general superior (1989-99). In the Diocese of Peoria, she was pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Peru from 2000 to 2001.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

Sister Linda Carol Maser, CSJ
50 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Journey Home case manager

ADDRESS: 3000 60th Avenue SW, Apt. 101, Seattle, WA 98116

HOMETOWN: Urbana
RECEPTION OF HABIT: Aug. 6, 1966, in St. Louis

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in history from Fontbonne College, St. Louis, and master's degree in religious education from Loyola University Chicago

MINISTRIES: Sister Linda's chief areas of

ministry have been teaching, parish ministry and social work, which have taken her to Georgia, Illinois, and Washington. For the past 18 years, she has worked as a case manager for Solid Ground and its Journey Home program, which seeks to help families out of poverty.

Sister Kim Marie Mis, CSSF
50 years

ORDER: Felician Sisters of North America
CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Executive director, United Stand Counseling Center, Chicago

ADDRESS: 3731 W. 62nd St., Chicago, IL 60629

BORN IN: LaSalle

HOME PARISH: St. Hyacinth, LaSalle

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: June 19, 1966, at Mother of Good

Counsel Convent, Chicago

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from DePaul University, Chicago; master's degree from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago; doctorate from Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Chicago

MINISTRIES: Before starting her current assignment, Sister Kim Marie taught at Catholic elementary schools or was a school counselor in Illinois and worked as director of residence care at Mercy Home in Chicago. In the Diocese of Peoria, she served at Holy Family School in Oglesby, teaching fifth grade from 1970 to 1971 and seventh grade from 1971 to 1974.

Sister Katherine O'Connor, OP
(Gilmory)
50 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: President of Sacred Heart Griffin High School, Springfield



ADDRESS: Dominican Sisters, P.O. Box 82, 213 Bogardus St., Elkhart, IL 62634

PROFESSED VOWS: June 19, 1966, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

MINISTRIES: The longtime teacher and administrator

has ministered at Catholic schools in Illinois and California. In the Diocese of Peoria, Sister Katherine was a junior high teacher at St. Mary School in East Moline from 1973 to 1976. She also served on the general council of the Dominican Sisters from 1997 to 2005, when she was named president at Sacred Heart Griffin.

CELEBRATION PLANS: The Dominican community will have a private celebration on Monday, Aug. 8.

Sister Mary Paul Shisler, OSF
50 years

ORDER: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Teacher

ADDRESS: St. Gilbert School, 231 E.

Belvidere, Grayslake, IL 60030

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1966, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort

MINISTRIES: Sister Mary Paul has been involved in education throughout her consecrated life, serving

at Catholic schools in Indiana and Illinois. In the Diocese of Peoria, she was the principal and eighth grade teacher (pre-algebra) at Peru Catholic School in Peru from 1984 to 1992.

CELEBRATION PLANS: A Mass with jubilee ceremony will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Francis Woods, Frankfort. The public is invited.

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS: Opportunities to work with bishop, priests and faithful have been great gifts

FROM B5

He will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, at Immaculate Heart of Mary. A buffet will follow for those who have made reservations.

Mail for Msgr. Pizzamiglio may be sent to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 2401 N. Broad St., Galesburg, IL 61401-1203.

MSGR. SHOWALTER

Name a board or spiritual enrichment program in the Diocese of Peoria, and Msgr. Showalter has probably been part of it at one time or another. He speaks fondly of each opportunity to serve, singling out Growing in Faith Together, the pastoral planning process that sought to strengthen the Diocese of Peoria through greater collaboration of its parishes, as a highlight of his long ministry.

"I can't think of any other life that can give you so much happiness," he said.

Born in Rock Island on Oct. 7, 1940, Msgr. Showalter said his uncle, Father

Norbert Showalter of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, had a great influence on his decision to enter the priesthood.

"I remember he made an effort to drive down from Iowa for my First Communion," Msgr. Showalter said. "I can remember back to the time of my First Communion wanting to be a priest."

Growing up in a strong Catholic family supported his budding vocation, as did a great love for the Blessed Mother. He also credits the example and interest of Father Bob Reynolds, his pastor at Sacred Heart in Rock Island.

Father Reynolds would be his vesting priest when he was ordained and was the homilist for his first Mass and the Mass of Thanksgiving for his 25th anniversary.

Msgr. Showalter was educated at Alleman High School in Rock Island and St.

Bede Academy in Peru and attended St. Bede College for two years. He studied philosophy and theology at St. Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad, Indiana.

His first assignments were as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception in Monmouth and chaplain at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington, with residence at Holy Trinity in Bloomington and then St. Patrick in Wapella. He would go on to serve as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul in Nauvoo and Sacred Heart in Dallas City for 12 years.

For the next 13 years, Msgr. Showalter ministered in the Quad Cities, first as pastor of St. Mary in Rock Island and then St. Pius X in Rock Island.

He was named vicar general for the Diocese of Peoria in 2004, and has continued to serve in that role with additional duties as administrator at St. Vincent de Paul; pastor at St. Bernard; and rector at St. Mary's Cathedral and pastor of St. Peter, all in Peoria.

Msgr. Showalter was named a Prelate of Honor, with the title of monsignor, in 2000, and Protonotary Apostolic, the

highest rank of monsignor, in 2009.

He also has served as vicar of the Rock Island Vicariate and was designated a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in 1997.

When Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, asked him to be the vicar general for the diocese, Msgr. Showalter said he wasn't sure he had enough background in canon law to accept.

"But you know the priests. You know the diocese," Bishop Jenky told him and the opportunity to work with the bishop and the fraternity of the priests have proven to be great gifts, Msgr. Showalter told The Post.

He will observe his golden anniversary by celebrating the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, June 12. The homilist will be Msgr. Stanley Deptula, director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship. A luncheon will follow.

He also plans to celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving in Nauvoo and Rock Island this summer.

Currently in residence at the rectory of St. Bernard Church, mail may be sent to him there: 509 E. Kansas St., Peoria, IL 61603.

"I can't think of any other life that can give you so much happiness."

Msgr. Paul Showalter

Life with Lord an 'adventure' for 25 years

Sister M. Margaret Gibbons, FSGM
25 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Teacher

ADDRESS: St. Catherine School, 2515 W. 46th St., Tulsa, OK 74107

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1991, in Alton

MINISTRIES: A fourth grade teacher at St. Catherine School in Tulsa, Sister M. Margaret also taught fourth grade at St. Matthew School in Champaign from 2007 to 2010.

COMMENTS: "I met our Sisters when I was in college at Franciscan University" of Steubenville, Sister M. Margaret said. "The Sisters were very joyful and faithful to prayer."

When she visited the motherhouse

*Do not be afraid!
God will give you
whatever graces
you need to
respond to and
follow His call in
your life."*

**Sister M. Margaret
Gibbons, FSGM**

"My life with the Lord and in community is an adventure. I find that no two days are alike and I find joy in serving the Lord," she said. "I feel the prayers and support of my Sisters, as together we follow the call that God has given to each of us."

Sister M. Margaret advised those who are considering consecrated life to "stay close to the Lord."

"He will show you the way," she said. "Listen to Him, pray, and find support

through spiritual direction and talking to people who can help you in the discernment process. Do not be afraid! God will give you whatever graces you need to respond to and follow His call in your life."

Sister Denise Glazik, OP
25 years

ORDER: Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Bradley

ADDRESS: 235 N. Center St., Bradley, IL 60915-1603

HOMETOWN: Rantoul
HOME PARISH: St. Malachy, Rantoul

PROFESSED VOWS: June 29, 1991, at Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield

EDUCATION: Bachelor's

degree in psychology from Governors State University, University Park, and master's degree in theology from St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin

MINISTRIES: Sister Denise has been a pastoral

associate at parishes in the Springfield and Joliet dioceses, and in Wisconsin.

CELEBRATION

PLANS: Sister Denise will celebrate with the Dominican community on Monday, Aug. 8, and with her family this fall.

COMMENTS:

Drawn to religious life by "God's strong invitation," Sister Denise discovered after she had been accepted by the Dominican congregation that it had also been her mother's "secret prayer" for her.

"I have stayed in religious life because I felt an instant 'rightness' or assurance that this is where I belonged and felt very

*"Through the
years, so many
people have noted
how happy I am.
This life 'fits'
me and I enjoy
bringing comfort
to those I serve."*

Sister Denise Glazik, OP

much 'at home' the moment I walked into the front doors," she said, noting that she had great support from her family and friends.

"While I was discerning religious life, one of the Dominican Sisters said to me, 'If you'd be a good wife and mother, you'd also be a good Sister. Come and see if this is where you can best love as God is calling you to love. If it's not right for you, you may leave,'" she recalled.

"Through the years, so many people have noted how happy I am," Sister Denise said. "This life 'fits' me and I enjoy bringing comfort to those I serve."

Sister M. Seraphica Montez, FSGM
25 years

ORDER: Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT: Teacher of theology and Spanish

ADDRESS: Marquette Catholic High School, 219 E. Fourth St., Alton, IL 62002

ENTRANCE TO ORDER: Sept. 8, 1991, in Alton

MINISTRIES: In the Diocese of Peoria, Sister M.

Seraphica assisted in the computer lab at St. Matthew School in Champaign in 1999, and taught at Alleman High School in Rock Island from 2001 to 2002.

COMMENTS: Sister M. Seraphica was attracted to consecrated life by three Sisters who were at Franciscan University of Steubenville when she was a freshman.

"I witnessed their prayer, friendliness and joy. By their witness, I desired to learn more about the consecrated life," she said, adding that being able to dedicate her life to God is the most satisfying aspect of her vocation.

"Every person has a deep desire to love and be loved. By this consecration there is an everlasting covenant of love established and it's amazing," Sister M. Seraphica said.

"Do not be afraid" to give your life to God, she advised those discerning a vocation to consecrated life.

"If you have no idea what it is about, call, write, email, find out more," she said. "Come if you love."

MSGR. BLISS

FROM B6

at OSF Saint Francis, 530 N.E. Glen Oak Ave., Peoria, IL 61637.

What drew you to the priesthood?

The seed of my vocation was first perceived when I served as an altar boy. It was later more fully realized during my college years.

Who has been the biggest influence on your vocation?

The memories of the parish priests when I was a boy continue to inspire me. The faith of my parents. The example of many of the priests of the Peoria diocese.

How are you a different priest today than when you were 25 years ago?

I feel more confident with experience. I see my vocation more as a means to continue to develop my relationship with God — understanding Him, loving Him, being a friend of Him — as opposed to service or doing things for Him. That part is secondary to the continuing development of a loving friendship with Him.

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

Presenting the Truth to a person and see him/her respond to it with recognition and acceptance. The greatest sorrow is to have a person recognize the Truth but walk away like the young rich man in the Gospels. Such an experience gives me insight into the sorrow our Lord felt when others walked away.

Name a profound experience of mercy, either given or received, and the impact it has had on your ministry.

The salvation of a young man suffering from alcoholism. It taught me never to give up on someone or think that a situation is hopeless, "that no one is beyond the gaze of our Heavenly Father." (Pope St. John Paul II)

KNOW SOMEONE WITH A STORY? The Catholic Post is committed to sharing one in-depth story of faith in each issue on our "People" page. Do you know someone whose life of faith inspires others? Someone who serves others in a unique way? Contact our newsroom at 1-800-340-5630 or email cathpost@cdop.org.

*Congratulations to all who are
celebrating Anniversaries this year!*



From the parishioners of
**Immaculate Conception,
St. Theresa's, Monmouth
and
St. Patrick's, Raritan**



*Congratulations to our
Vicar General, Monsignor Paul E. Showalter, P.A.,
on his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood
and to all those celebrating milestone anniversaries this year.
May God bless all of our Jubilarians.*



Champaign

FATHER CAMPBELL: Prayer, devotion to Mary give the strength to persevere

FROM B6

al Marian Research Institute in Dayton, Ohio, in 2009.

He was named associate pastor at St. John Vianney in Northlake in 2007, and St. Thomas More in Chicago in 2010.

With his ordination classmate, Father Benjamin Reese, he founded a society for diocesan priests, The Apostles of Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim. They served together at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Therese of Lisieux parishes in Kenosha, Wisconsin, from 2011 until 2015, when Father Reese's health declined.

Father Campbell continues as pastor of both parishes, and as adjunct professor of theology at Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. Mail may be sent to him at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1919 65th St., Kenosha, WI 53140.

Both parishes will host a celebration for him on Sunday, May 22, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Another gathering with family and friends is planned for the following Sunday, May 29, in Chicago.

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

I'd have to say the two greatest acts that the priest performs: offering the Holy Sac-

rifice of the Mass daily, and hearing confessions. For about the past dozen years I have been blessed to be able to offer the Extraordinary Form of the Mass at the parishes where I have served, and that has added another dimension to my priesthood and has helped me to offer the Ordinary Form of the Mass more reverently. There is a real beauty with the traditional Latin Mass, especially when sung with Gregorian chant.

Hearing confessions can be the most wearying of priestly duties, but it always brings tremendous satisfaction. I'm always amazed that penitents place their complete trust in me, a priest, and that they truly believe that when they confess their sins, they really confess them to Jesus Christ; that the priest absolves them by acting in the very person of Christ.

Talk about your prayer life — what feeds your ministry?

I've always viewed my prayer life as the foundation and source of strength for my priestly ministry. Prayer is the key to having a personal relationship with God; that goes for everyone, but especially for priests. . . .

Throughout the years of my priesthood I've tried to be faithful to a daily schedule of prayer, with the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary, spiritual reading and meditation, and spending at least an hour before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes it's difficult to make

that time and be faithful to a daily schedule, but it's worth the effort. I often find that when I'm tired and exhausted, God grants me the greatest consolations in prayer.

Through prayer and devotion to Our Lady I find the strength to persevere, answers to various issues and problems, and great peace of soul, knowing that God is in charge and I am just His lowly servant.

What Scripture passage sums up your ministry?

I think the Scripture passage which best sums up my priestly ministry is 2 Timothy 4:1-2, where St. Paul exhorts Timothy: "Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching."

Love for the beauty of the truth of the Catholic faith, and a desire to make it better known and understood, is one of the things that motivated me to enter the priesthood. "Faith comes from hearing" (Romans 10:17), as St. Paul reminds us. For this reason I love to preach, and I look forward to the opportunity every weekend to go before my parishioners and try to lead them to a deeper encounter with Christ through reflecting on the weekly Gospel message.

I also love to teach, and in whatever parish I've been assigned, I have always sought out opportunities to teach. . . .



Our silver jubilarians shared much more!

Find their full responses to our survey questions online at

thecatholicpost.com



*Congratulations
and Heartfelt Thanks to
Our 2016 Jubilarians*



75th Anniversary
Sister Marie Irene Petrykowski
Sister Mary Placidia Kuligot

70th Anniversary
Sister Mary Lucia Skalka
Sister Mary Therese Lukas

60th Anniversary
Sister Mary Antoinette Koprowski

50th Anniversary
Sister Mary Camille Bena
Sister Kim Marie Mis



MSGR. HALFACRE: Day infused with many opportunities for prayer and spending time with Jesus

FROM B7

quette Academy in Ottawa. This spring he is completing his 24th year of teaching at the school.

He went to St. Patrick Parish in Ottawa in 1998 and would minister as the pastor there until 2011, adding pastoral care for St. Mary (Naplate) in Ottawa in 2003.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, designated him as censor librorum for the Diocese of Peoria in 2008.

While he was in Ottawa, he served as president of the Pastors' Board for Marquette and provided leadership as the Catholic schools there were reconfigured into Marquette Academy.

Msgr. Halfacre was made pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Streator and vicar of the Ottawa Vicariate in 2011. The same year he was named a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of monsignor.

He has also pastored St. Patrick in Seneca since 2012.

In between his pastoral ministry and teaching, Msgr. Halfacre found time to write a book. "Genuine Friendship: The Foundation for All Personal Relationships, Including Marriage and the Relationship with God" was published in 2008 and is in its third printing.

He will mark his 25th anniversary at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 22, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, at the corner of Lundy and Shabbona streets. A reception will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Streator. All are welcome.

Mail for Msgr. Halfacre may be sent to 513 S. Shabbona, Streator, IL 61364.

What drew you to the priesthood? How did you know you were being called?

When I was a freshman at Indiana University (Bloomington) in the early 1980s, I became Catholic. That was due in large part to my college roommate and the Newman Center chaplain. The following year, during the second week of October, I experienced a strong desire to be a priest. I had only been

a Catholic for a short time and I had other plans for my life. But this sudden and intense desire to be a priest and to do the things that priests do is largely what I look back on as God's "call" to me. It was important to me then, as it is now, that I do with my life what God wants me to do.

Talk about your prayer life — what feeds your ministry?

My day begins early, usually well before sunrise. The early morning is clearly my favorite time of the day and it is when I read and pray the rosary and the Divine Office. About a half hour before Mass, I go over to the church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Celebrating Mass for the folks who come to receive Our Lord daily is probably what I relish most in my day. The daily Mass crowd is something of a "community within a community" and I greatly delight in our time together with Jesus.

Since we have the Eucharist reserved here in the parish office — in the former convent

chapel — I am able to make periodic visits throughout the day to greet Our Lord. Then I also try to spend another half hour with him sometime in the afternoon.

At the end of the day, my prayers before bed are rather brief: an examination of conscience, three Hail Marys, and a "goodnight" to my favorite saints, to my guardian angel, and to Jesus.

Name a profound experience of mercy, either given or received, and the impact it has had on your priesthood.

Many times in my own life and in my priestly ministry I have seen lived out the beautiful response of the Father to his Prodigal Son upon his return. The Father seemingly has no interest in his son's past; his focus is on restoring his son's dignity *as a son* and on what the son can *become*. In spite of everything, the Father is interested in what lies ahead, not in what is in the past. Though some instances stand out more than others, there is hardly a day that goes by that I don't experience this in some way or another in my priestly ministry.

FATHER KEEBLER: Distributing Communion in St. Peter's Square with 'saintly pope' one highlight

FROM B7

assigned to St. Lawrence in Penfield and Holy Trinity in Rankin, which he would serve as administrator for one year and then pastor for one year. In 2000, he was named pastor of the Penfield parish and St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Thomasboro, and in 2001, he was given responsibility for the Penfield and Rankin faith communities, and St. Charles Borromeo in Homer.

Father Keebler was released for work in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in 2006. When he returned in 2009, he served as pastor of St. Patrick in Tolono for two years and then as administrator

of St. Rose in Rushville for one year. He has been parochial vicar at St. Mary in Pontiac, St. Joseph in Flanagan, and St. John in Cullom since 2012, and added St. Paul in Odell in 2013.

Mail for Father Keebler may be sent to St. Mary Church, 119 E. Howard St., P.O. Box 374, Pontiac, IL 61764.

How are you a different priest today than you were 25 years ago?

I would say I am much different and here's why. The basic structure of the liturgy and prayer, as well as the entire structure of the church, guarantees something entirely different from a life of sin and separation from

God. Over the years entering more deeply into the mystery of the church, the Body of Christ, gave me the possibility of personal virtue, and taking advantage of God's grace in the good sense literally makes you a good man and a good priest and this I strive for.

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

What has given me the most joy in the priesthood is knowing that I am doing what God wants me to do and through Divine Providence being where I am supposed to be. As a priest, the liturgy and sacraments, prayer and other aspects of a priest's life, particularly being with His people, has given me the greatest joy.

What have been the highlights of your various assignments?

The highlights of my various assignments are many. . . . I remember one moment in particular when, during the Jubilee Year 2000, I was able to be present at and help out with Communion at St. Peter's in Rome during the Mass of Sts. Peter and Paul. Pope St. John Paul II was the celebrant of that Mass and I was just feet away from the saintly pope along with many other priests from various parts of the world. It was an outdoor Mass on the square and that was an experience I will be able to take with me forever. I am truly grateful for my vocation.

FATHER KRETZ: Those who answer the call to priesthood become 'continuators' of the Son of God

FROM B7

as a chaplain at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington.

He was granted senior priest status in 2009.

Father Kretz said he is planning a private celebration for his anniversary. Mail may be sent to him at 2705 Westbrook Drive, Bloomington, IL 61705.

What drew you to the priesthood?

We who answer the call to priesthood become "continuators" of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We continue the word of the Son of God that He began more than 2,000 years ago. We are given the command to save souls through forgiveness of sins and through the distribution of the sacraments.

We were not called to be administrators, financial wizards, accountants or mainte-

nance men, even though those duties and many other non-sacramental responsibilities take up the majority of our time. Our primary mission given to us by the authority of Jesus Christ through Peter and his successors is the power to remit sins and to offer the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We help to save those who have been saved by the Blood of Jesus.

But men continue to fall into the death of sin, so that it is necessary for them to be continuously washed in the Blood of Christ, 70 and 70 times seven, by those who have the authority to do so, so that they may not be a victim of eternal death. We, as continuators of Christ, fulfill this mission until the end of time.

We, as continuators, are commanded to convert the world and ourselves to Christ, who directed us to go forth and teach the Gospels to the whole world, baptiz-

ing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and gave us the authority "whose sins you forgive they are forgiven" (John 20:23), always performing this action in all meekness, patience and compassion.

This is what drew me to the priesthood through an interior calling to help others as well as myself along the bumpy, pot-holed, debris-stewn road toward salvation.

How are you a different priest today than you were 25 years ago?

Even though the mission of the priesthood always remains the same, the priest is constantly being honed through many diverse experiences, and so one becomes a little smarter as each year passes and one becomes closer to the Blessed Trinity with a deeper understanding of one's responsibility to do everything possible to prevent even

one soul from being lost to God.

How has priestly ministry changed in the last generation?

Over the last generation the perception of the dignity of the priesthood has changed due to the influence of worldly allurements and the perceived changes in the church since Vatican II and its leadership within the highest ranks causing some confusion in the minds of the laity between dogma and doctrine. But the mission will always remain the same — the salvation of souls for Christ.

If the sacraments should ever change and the Most Holy Eucharist is no longer considered to be the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, but rather some global symbol of common oneness, then the Mass and the priesthood will no longer exist and without the Mass, the world itself would no longer have a reason to exist.

MSGR. SWETLAND: His vocation focuses on celebrating sacraments, preaching and teaching

FROM B7

in England. While there, he entered the Catholic Church.

He studied for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, earning a master's degree in divinity in 1990 and a master's degree in moral theology in 1991. He also holds a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Lateran University, having studied at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, D.C.

After ordination, Msgr. Swetland assisted at St. Peter in Peoria while he served as administrative assistant to Bishop (now Archbishop) John J. Myers. He would be

named pastor at St. Peter and chaplain at the St. Joseph Newman Center at Bradley University in 1992, and pastor at St. Martin de Porres in Peoria in 1993, retaining his duties as chaplain at the Newman Center.

When he returned from his graduate studies, Msgr. Swetland was assigned to be chaplain at St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois in Champaign. He was named director of campus ministry for the Diocese of Peoria in 1998, and episcopal vicar for social justice in 1999.

He was made a Prelate of Honor with the title of monsignor in 2000.

Msgr. Swetland began his ministry at Mount St. Mary's University and Semi-

nary in 2006. He has been leading Donnelly College since 2014.

He has also served as executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education, executive secretary for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, and theological adviser to the Catholic Conference of Illinois.

While he doesn't have a celebration planned, Msgr. Swetland hopes to be leading a pilgrimage to France in June.

Mail for him may be sent to Donnelly College, 608 N. 18th St., Kansas City, KS 66102.

What drew you to the priesthood? How did you know you were being called?

I knew at a very young age that I was called

to ministry; however, it took me answering the call to become Catholic to realize that call to ministry was a call to the priesthood. If you had asked me what I wanted to be around age 5 or 6, I would have answered something in the realm of ministry. It was after college and graduate school, when I became Catholic, that I began to recognize God's call to Holy Orders, in my prayer and meditation. It was after several years of being Catholic, when I realized I should have answered the call already, that I joined the seminary.

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

Nothing gives me more joy than to celebrate the sacraments, especially Mass and reconciliation. I would also like to add to that list my love of preaching and teaching. As the Second Vatican Council taught, the primary vocation of the priest is the proclamation of the Gospel to all. To achieve this call, we must celebrate the sacraments, as well as preach and teach the Gospel. My vocation has been focused on those three things.

Name a profound experience of mercy, either given or received, and the impact it has had on your priesthood.

There was once a place where I was serving and I decided to put on an extra time for confession. I was unsure if this was something that I should do — I did it almost on a whim at the request of some people. So I prayed to God as I started this new time of confession that if he wanted me to do this, he should make it clear I was doing the right thing.

The next week he sent me an incredible number of people who wanted the sacrament and many, many people who had been away from the sacrament for years. It was an amazing answer to prayer and a sign that God wanted as many times as possible for the confessional to be open and available to people in this great sacrament of mercy.

FATHER VITALIANO: Joy found in sacramental ministry to faithful in military

FROM B7

Pontiac and St. Pius X in Rock Island, before being named pastor for St. Lawrence in Penfield and Holy Trinity in Rankin. He would also lead St. Thomas in Philo and Immaculate Conception in Bongard, and then St. Luke in Eureka before seeking permission to go back to the Air Force as a chaplain in 2000.

Since he returned to Diocese of Peoria three years ago, Father Vitaliano has served as pastor of St. Bernard in Bushnell and St. Augustine in St. Augustine, as well as chaplain at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Newman Center at Western Illinois University in Macomb.

He will celebrate his anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, at St. Bernard.

Mail for him may be sent to St. Bernard Church, 376 W. Hail St., Bushnell, IL 61422.

What drew you to the priesthood? Who has been the biggest influence on your vocation?

God gave me the gift of Father Dick Dzik, a retired Chicago policeman who became a priest and then went into the military as a chaplain. He was my spiritual director, a good friend, and one day he invited me to a young adult weekend retreat. During the retreat he said to me, "Dominic, you have to live your life the way you want it written on your gravestone. If you do not like the way you are living your life, you have to change it today. Change it today, because you may not have a tomorrow." Those words were prophetic and soul searching for me.

Father Dzik and I had long talks about the priesthood, about my job in the military and the seminary. Looking back, God was speaking through him. After all of this I think God was calling me to the priesthood all my life, but I just did not pay attention....

Of all the popes, St. John Paul II had the greatest influence on me as a priest and my vocation. He set the theological path for me

and what a joy it was to shake his hand in Denver at World Youth Day in 1993. I shook the hand of a saint. I will never forget how he looked into my eyes and stared deeply into my soul not letting go of my hand, encouraging me to be strong and faithful to Christ.

What has given you the most joy in your priesthood?

There have been many other joys such as baptizing so many infants, children and adults, preparing couples for the sacrament of marriage, completing lots of marriage cases and giving some well-prepared homilies. It is always a joy to offer the Mass and to nourish God's people, giving them sustenance for their spiritual journey.... It is a joy to anoint a Catholic who is dying before they pass on to Jesus and it reminds me that, as a priest, I am an instrument of His peace and grace. Absolving the repentant sinner is a great joy, especially when it has been 20 or 40 years since their last confession. What a joy to bring Christ's mercy to souls! My greatest joy was my ordination....

What have been the highlights of your various assignments?

The highlight of my priestly ministry was my 12 years and six months as an active duty Catholic chaplain in the U.S. Air Force.... I was deployed four times formally and went on numerous airborne missions as the mobility chaplain for the Operations Group at McChord Air Force Base, an Air Mobility Command base, near Seattle, Washington. As a priest it was a joy to offer the sacraments to the faithful in the military and it was always a joy to do various activities to boost the morale of the military....

I served under many commanders and witnessed both good and bad leadership. I want to say we have been honored to serve under some very faithful and dedicated bishops in our diocese. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky has been very supportive of me when I was in the military and he has always been approachable and amiable. He has done great things for our diocese.



Sacred Heart Parish

salutes all jubilarians especially

Fr. Daniel Mirabelli, CSV

who has served our church.

Congratulations and Best Wishes from

**Father Mark, Father Sebastian
and the staff and parishioners at
Sacred Heart Parish, Moline.**

Congratulations
to our Vicar General
Monsignor Paul Showalter, P.A.
on your 50th Anniversary
as a priest of the Diocese of Peoria



May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry!

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC

Msgr. James Kruse, Vicar General, Patricia Gibson, Chancellor
and your Curia staff.