

# THE OBSERVER

Official Newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Rockford



Don't miss Mass Sunday.



Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night.

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### Quick News

#### Pope's Harley Gets \$326,000

Harley-Davidson gave Pope Francis a new Dyna Super Glide in June. The pope autographed and put it up for auction, raising \$326,000 for a Rome soup kitchen and homeless shelter.

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(Observer photos by Lynne Conner)

Catechumens, candidates, their sponsors and families gather at Cathedral of St. Peter for the annual Rite of Election, March 2.



LEFT: After the Spanish ceremony, March 2, Bishop David Malloy is surrounded in the fellowship room by families who want to get pictures to remember the day.

## Rite of Election Celebrated At Cathedral

ROCKFORD—Each year, just before Lent begins, the Diocese of Rockford welcomes catechumens and candidates for sacraments in a ceremony called the Rite of Election.

Catechumens are those who are not yet baptized.

Candidates include both those who are baptized non-Catholics preparing for full communion with the Church and those baptized Catholics who are preparing for confirmation or Communion.

This year, three ceremonies were held and several hundred people welcomed in their journey in the faith.

Two rites in English took place March 1 and one in Spanish took place March 2.

### Hundreds Welcomed in Annual Rites of Election at Cathedral

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## International Appeal, March 8-9

# Appeal to Benefit Local, Global Causes

BY AMANDA HUDSON  
News Editor

DIOCESE—The second diocesan-wide collection that combines several collections into one will take place in parishes the weekend of March 8-9.

The International Appeal assists persons in other countries and also in the Diocese of Rockford. Two diocesan causes are included in this appeal: Catholic Elementary School Financial Support will help keep open diocesan schools that have operating deficits, and the Priests' Pension Plan will help support retired priests of the diocese now and in the future.

Four international appeals are a part of this collection:

Peter's Pence provided the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works to help victims of war, oppression and disasters.



(CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

Joe Curry, country representative for Catholic Relief Services in the Philippines, gives a presentation to development agencies in Manila Feb. 3. The report was shared with representatives of CRS, Caritas Australia, Trocaire and CAFOD, all Catholic aid agencies.

Last year, the Diocese of Rockford contributed \$166,247 to this collection.

Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe funds projects in 28 countries.

These projects work to build up the church in countries where the church has suffered from persecutions. Funds support seminaries, social service and youth programs, church con-

struction and renovation efforts and more. This appeal last year provided \$34,119 to this appeal.

Catholic Relief Services Collection assists people around the globe in times of disaster and with numerous projects to help the poor become self-sustaining. From providing basic human essentials to advocating on behalf of victims of human trafficking, this collection addresses a variety of needs throughout the world. Last year, people of the diocese provided \$101,863 to this appeal.

Worldwide and U.S. Disaster Relief Fund Rockford Diocese Response allows Bishop Malloy to respond to petitions for financial assistance from bishops in areas where natural disasters have occurred or where significant needs exist. This past year, he distributed a total of \$65,000 including donations to the tornado victims in  
Continued on page 10





# Use Confession This Lent to Help Better Prepare for Salvation

BY BISHOP DAVID J. MALLOY

Last week, I mentioned that a day is being set aside this Lent to emphasize and make widely available in the Diocese of Rockford the sacrament of reconciliation.

Under the title of "Be Reconciled," throughout the diocese our priests will be hearing confessions from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 9.

Each parish has been asked to participate as fully as possible, given the number of priests that we have available. Of course, everyone is encouraged to go to confession at any time during Lent, not just on that day. And as I mentioned last week, any who have been away from the Church or the sacrament of reconciliation for a long time are especially invited and encouraged to come on that day.

The day that has been chosen, April 9, is the last Wednesday of Lent before Holy Week. That gives everyone the opportunity to use the whole season of Lent to prepare for confession.

But how do we prepare, especially if we have been away for a long time?

One of the most fundamental elements of being reconciled with Jesus and with the Church is first to recognize and admit our own sinfulness. That sounds easy, or at least simple enough, but in our anything-goes world and society, it really merits our reflection.

In order to admit our sinfulness, we must first recognize that there is such a thing as

right and wrong. And closely related, there is truth and that which is not true.

The basis of such right and wrong is, ultimately, God Himself. Right and wrong against which we must measure our consciences is expressed in the commandments that God has revealed (I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have strange gods before me.) or in an honest reflection on nature as received from God (discrimination based in race or ethnicity is an offense against the human dignity we all share).

What makes something right or wrong, sinful or not, is not our human feeling or some decision of the moment being embraced by a majority of society. Wrong cannot be changed into right nor sin into goodness by our collective human decree.

We need, then, to avoid the temptation, both socially and individually, to make excuses for our sins. And let's be honest, that temptation can be strong.

Instead, like an honest child before his or her parents, we must stand before our heavenly Father in the sacrament of confession and admit when we have sinned, when our thoughts, words or deeds have not lived up to God's truth.

That is the moment of freedom in confession. That is the moment of conversion. When we admit our guilt it is, paradoxically, the moment when we leave our sins behind. We drop our excuses and our rationalizations and instead we trust in God's

love for us and in His mercy. No longer do we cling to our evasions, but we open our hearts to the healing that only God can bring.

Of course, in preparing for that confession, we need to strip away whatever else keeps our hearts from being open to God's mercy.

Do we harbor anger or resentment toward someone? Be done with it, go and apologize.

Am I involved in an improper or illicit relationship? Now is the time for my sake and that of the other, to break it off.

Too much alcohol? Pornography on the computer or television? Bad language? We know what we must do.

Some sins are hard to stop. Sometimes they become habitual and require time and prayer to overcome. God does not ask us to come to confession as a reward only when the battle is won and we are closer to perfection. If we are contrite and truly resolved to try and follow God in our heart and in our conduct, the sacrament of reconciliation is a means to help us with our conversion.

"Now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation" St. Paul tells us. Let's not wait any longer to receive God's love in the sacrament of confession, especially if it's been a long time.



THE POPE ON ...

(CNS photo/Claudio Peri, pool via Reuters)

## Anointing the Sick

From general audience, St. Peter's Square, Feb. 26

Today I would like to talk to you about the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, which allows us to touch God's compassion for man.

In the past it was called "extreme unction," because it was understood as a spiritual comfort in the face of imminent death. To speak instead of the "anointing of the sick" helps us broaden our vision to include the experience of illness and suffering, within the horizon of God's mercy.

There is a biblical icon that expresses, in all its depths, the mystery that shines through the anointing of the sick: it is the parable of the "Good Samaritan" contained in the Gospel of Luke (10:30-35).

Each time that we celebrate this sacrament, the Lord Jesus, in the person of the priest, comes close to the one who suffers and is seriously ill or elderly.

The parable says that the Good Samaritan takes care of the suffering man by pouring oil and wine on his wounds.

Oil makes us think of that which is blessed by the bishop each year at the Holy Thursday Chrism Mass, precisely in view of the anointing of the sick.

Wine, however, is a sign of Christ's love and grace, which flow from the gift of his life for us and are expressed in all their richness in the sacramental life of the Church.

Finally, the suffering person is entrusted to an innkeeper, so that he might continue to care for him, sparing no expense.

Now, who is this innkeeper? It is the Church, the Christian community — it is us — to whom each day the Lord entrusts those who are afflicted in body and spirit, so that we might lavish all of His mercy and salvation upon them without measure.

This mandate is repeated in an explicit and precise manner in the Letter of James, where he recommends: "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (5:14-15).

It was, therefore, a practice that was already taking place at the time of the Apostles. Jesus in fact taught his disciples to have the same preferential love that he did for the sick and suffering, and he transmitted to them the ability and duty to continue providing, in his name and after his own heart, relief and peace through the special grace of this sacrament.

This, however, should not make us fall into an obsessive search for miracles or the presumption that one can always

and in any situation be healed. Rather, it is the reassurance of Jesus' closeness to the sick and the aged, too, because any elderly person, anyone over the age of 65, can receive this sacrament, through which Jesus himself draws close to us.

But when someone is sick, we at times think, "Let's call for the priest to come"; "No, then he will bring bad luck, let's not call him," or "He will scare the sick person."

Why do we think this? Because the idea is floating about that the undertakers arrive after the priest. And this is not true.

The priest comes to help the sick or elderly person; that is why the priest's visit to the sick is so important. We ought to call the priest to the sick person's side and say, "Come, give him the anointing, bless him."

Continued on page 12

### Bishop Malloy's Public Schedule

**ST. CHARLES** — March 8, 4 p.m., Mass for the closing of the 'Here I am Lord' Conference, St. Patrick Church

**ROCKFORD** — March

9, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

**SOMONAUK** — March 9, 1 p.m., Confirmation, St. John the Baptist Church

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — March 10-13, USCCB Committee Meetings

**ROCKFORD** — March 15, 5:30 p.m., Blessing of St. Joseph Altar, St. Anthony of Padua Parish

**ROCKFORD** — March 16, 7:30 a.m., Sunday Mass, Cathedral of St. Peter

**SYCAMORE** — March

16, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Confirmation, St. Mary Church

**ROCKFORD** — March 17, 10:05 a.m., Catholic Forum, WROK 1440AM

**ROCHELLE** — March 19, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, St. Patrick Church

THE OBSERVER

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**Our Mission is the mission of the Church itself — to spread the Gospel through contemporary means of communications.**



HEADLINERS

# Putting Their Hearts in Their Hands

DeKalb Youth Dedicates Valentines Day to St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center in Rockford

BY LYNNE CONNER  
*Observer Correspondent*

ROCKFORD—Teens from the St. Mary Parish Youth Group in DeKalb celebrated Valentines Day a bit differently this year. Instead of heart shaped pizzas, chocolates or candy hearts the group chose to go on a “work-fast” Feb. 14 and help out at the St. Elizabeth Community Center in Rockford.

During a four-hour shift at the center, the teens helped clean and organize in the auxiliary building on South Main Street. That building houses a food pantry, tool shed and clothing closet.

Items there have all been donated by the community to help less fortunate families.

According to Katie Decker,



Sarah Seibert (left) and Sammie Wooten sort clothes.

*“Once you start helping out; you sort of forget to be hungry ... Besides, there’s always time later to eat chocolate.”*

— Savannah Price

youth minister at St. Mary, the teens’ shift at St. Elizabeth’s took place during a 24-hour fast the group organized to benefit Catholic Relief Services.

“Our teens wanted to be leaders and do something tangible for Catholic Relief Services beyond just fasting from food. We contacted the head of Catholic Charities for the diocese and asked where we could help out and here we are.

“The St. Elizabeth Center doesn’t have a lot of full time staff,” she said, “and they had jobs that needed to be done, so our teens are helping out where ever they are needed.”

Savannah Price and a group of about five girls were busy working in the children’s clothing room, to make it more organized and welcoming.

“I came today because I wanted to make a difference and even if we are just doing small things like hanging up clothes, it may help a family find something warm for their



(Observer photos by Lynne Conner)

The youth group from St. Mary Parish in DeKalb poses in a children’s clothing room at St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center, Feb. 14.

children to wear,” she said.

As far as missing any of the traditional Valentine’s Day activities, Price said, “Once you start working and helping out; you sort of forget to be hungry because you know you’re making a difference for a lot of people. Besides, there’s always time later to eat chocolate.”

After volunteering at the St. Elizabeth Center, the youth group returned to St. Mary Parish where they had a “homeless” campout and slept in cardboard boxes.



Juan Cruz (left) and Pancho Camacho hang clothes on racks.

**For Lent**

What are you doing for Lent this year?



(Observer photo by Lynne Conner)

**Raul Sandoval**  
St. Joseph Parish, Elgin

“I still haven’t decided, but I have some things in mind of what I will be doing for my Lenten penance; I do want it to be something that will change me in a good way in the future. I will be eating less meat. That is a sacrifice and I think it will be good for me.”

## Annual Day of Reflection to Feature St. Teresa of Avila

ROCKFORD—The annual Day of Reflection hosted by the Secular Discalced Carmelite Community of the Rockford Diocese, will be held March 8, at St. Rita Parish, here.

Carmelite Father Daniel Chowning will lead three conferences — “Teresa’s Journey of Prayer,” “The Conversions of St. Teresa,” and “Teresa’s Prayer of Active Recollection explained in Chapters 26-29 of the Way of Perfection.”

Father Chowning made his solemn vows as a Discalced Carmelite in 1985 and was ordained

to the priesthood in 1988. He is well-versed in St. Teresa’s wisdom, having completed studies at the International Center for Teresian/Sanjuanist in Avila, Spain, as well as other degrees.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 9 a.m. The day will end around 2:30 with a raffle of several spiritual items. Sesssion will take place in Wahl Hall.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Donations are welcomed. Registrations are appreciated and may be made by calling 815/962-0546.

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- March 14th
- March 21st
- March 28th
- April 4th
- April 11th



## DIOCESAN

# Hundreds Welcomed in Annual Rites of Election at Cathedral

**Key**  
 † **Catechumens:** those who are not baptized.  
 † **Candidates:** those who are baptized non-Catholics preparing for full communion.  
 † **Candidates:** those baptized Catholics who are preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

**Algonquin**

**St. Margaret Mary:** †Danielle Barton, †Thomas Dornfeld, †Christopher Hulslander, †Richard Rowe, †Laurel Wilson, †Amanda Hornbaker, †Ezekielle Nono

**Aurora**

**Annunciation BVM:** †Kevin Baer, †Craig Blackwell, †Linda Blackwell, †Abigail Reimer, †Ethan Reimer, †Eric Hultgren, †Amanda Cottrell

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:** †Brandon De Leon, †Elena Gramillo, †Elva Rosa Martinez, †Ernesto Martinez Sandoval, †Julian Ramirez, †Alfonso Muñoz Rios, †Susie Alfaro, †Yadira Casas, †Luis E. Ferrer, †Vanessa Gonzalez, †Jose Antonio Martinez, †Daniel Mata, †Ruth Rodriguez, †Gracie Soto, †Silvia Soto

**Sacred Heart:** †Anselmo Arroyo Cruz, †Alberto Perez Reyes, †Aldo Moreno, †Christian A. Gutierrez, †Daisy Cecilia Gonzalez, †Diana Moreno, †Domingo Sanchez Pacheco, †Eleazar Alcaraz, †Felipe de Jesus Rodriguez, †Jose Concepcion Aguilar, †Jose Fermin Hernandez, †Josefina L. Gonzalez, †Jesus Antonio Hernandez, †Marisol Cuautle Tecuanhuehue, †Martin Contreras Maya, †Monica Arizmendi, †Rafael Contreras Maya, †Ricardo Moreno, †Susana Uribes

**St. Joseph:** †Oscar Iga

**St. Mary:** †Kathleen Amidei

**St. Nicholas:** †Luis Sanchez, †Abraham Martinez, †Alicia Ramos, †Anabel Lazcano, †Beatriz Uribes, †Briseida Yañez, †Carolina Escobedo, †Carlos Valdez, †Cynthia Monarrez, †Denise Ramos, †David Chihuahua, †Eduardo Mendoza, †Elizabeth Cepeda, †Elvia Diaz, †Efreen Xochiteca, †Erick Benigno, †Fabiola Nevarez, †Guillermo Hernández, †Maria Maya, †Nabor Lopez, †Patricia García, †Samara Marín

**St. Peter:** †Andy Aguilera, †Isaak Alanis, †Eugenio Cruz, †Miguel Cruz, †Michael DePuente

**Batavia**

**Holy Cross:** †Susan Deborah Hanson, †Cassandra Lee Weese, †Brady Aaron Bobbitt, †Nikki Lin Bobbitt, †Jamie Ann Bode, †Priscilla Carobine, †Kelly Jeanine MacKenzie, †Kevin Thomas Smith, †Amber Sue Thaler, †Kevin Michael Thaler, †Ricky A. Chomicz, †Cynthia Garcia, †Daisy Garcia, †Vanessa Garcia, †Gianna Maya Kozaczka, †Jose Antonio Martinez, †Mayra Alejandra Mora, †Alba Rubio, †Brisa Rubio, †Lisa Catherine Sortino, †Angelo Zaragoza

**Belvidere**

**St. James:** †Aleshia Avila, †Lindsay Bye, †Joseph Cacciapaglia, †Kaitlin Marie Condon, †Joshua Isaac, †Phillip Held, †Susan Lynn Leonard, †David Peterson, †Susan Peterson, †Shirley Redman, †Marvin Wilson, †Christian Khochab, †Elena San-

chez, †Frances Jacqueline Wirth

**Byron**

**St. Mary:** †Andrea Nichole Clark, †Shawn William Ford, †Thomas Duane Warmoth Jr., †Bryan James Kenagy

**Carpentersville**

**St. Monica:** †Jason James Krueger, †Ruben Enriquez, †Leslie Hernandez, †Jesus Cruz, †Jose Maria Jaime Morales, †Jonathan Christopher Perez, †Herson Humberto Rivera, †Juanita Rivera, †Christopher Alfonso Tellez Riquelme, †Reyes Tinajero, †Jaime Bueno, †Gerry Dominguez, †Aracely Escontrias, †Evelin Yuliana Fernandez, †Javier Fernandez, †Celsa Garcia, †Eric Garcia, †Maria Mora, †Anita Perez, †Samantha Ramirez, †Guillermo Reyes, †Javier Romero Jr., †Carlota Dania Sosa, †Ernesto Saubias Vizcarra, †Maria Vences, †Marlene Wences

**Crystal Lake**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:** †Lisa Acosta, †Dave Amaitis, †Bryan O'Halleran, †Ross McPeake, †Joette Castro, †Pamela Acosta, †Alex De la Torre, †Jose Dorantes, †Collen Huttner, †Michael Oster

**St. Thomas the Apostle:** †Carmen Cabrera, †Maria Victoria Farfán, †Gabriel Mujica Garcia, †Isaias Mujica Garcia, †Daniel Malpica, †Rory Freeman, †Hunter Labas, †Stacy Niehoff, †Steve Siler, †Kellie Stryker, †Kevin Winnicki, †Brian Akrami, †Kristen Carlstedt, †Rodney Covenah, †Joseph Edwards, †Craig Gawart, †Abigail Groesser, †Daniel Helm, †Valerie Hill, †Jody Meyer, †Julia Meyer, †Sarah Meyer, †Jonathan O'Dea, †Kolby Wood, †Nadia Arimbado, †Jorge Luis Barradas, †Luis Juan Butler, †Magali Guzmán Carrillo, †Sarai Tello Catalán, †Felipe Durán, †Apolinar Agatón Martínez, †Jose Luis Hernández Martínez, †Narmi Ramírez Mendoza, †Rogaciano Navarro Montes, †Antonio Chula Morales, †Alexi Ramirez, †Gustavo Rosales, †Diego Tapia, †Christian López Valencia, †Jamie Askin, †Beth Edwards, †Vanessa Hernandez, †Margaret Kaleta, †Cherisse Lamka, †Ernestine Marquez, †Sean Niehoff

**DeKalb**

**Christ the Teacher:** †Jordan Myers, †Dezirae Ninow, †Michael Pater, †Ashley Purdue, †Megan Rapp, †Christopher Seabert, †Sandra Conness, †Cheryl Scott, †John C. Tompkins, †Rebecca Conness, †Jennifer Gardner, †Holly McIntyre, †Samantha Sandoval, †Andrew Welp

**St. Mary:** †Erin Gehrke, †Briana Solorio, †Angie Tolliver, †Timothy Valenzuela, †Sarahi Dominguez, †Eric Garcia, †Angel G. Gutierrez, †Layza G. Gutierrez, †Loaitza Gutierrez, †Anger Hernandez, †Cynthia Lopez, †Maria del Cielo Lopez, †Efrain Marrufo, †Rita Anderson, †Colleen Kissane, †Colleen Solorio, †Daniel Sullivan, †Jimi Wilson, †Carlos Hernandez, †Javier Perez, †Norma Gregorio-Perez, †Paola Arias, †Daniel Baggett, †Cory Filkins, †Amanda Harness, †Elizabeth Johnese, †Frank Nunez Jr., †Mary Lou Nunez, †Juan Diego Ayala, †Elena Gomez, †Sara Hurtado, †Eric Lopez, †Ana Marquez, †Ricardo Marquez, †Evelyn B. Rangel



(Observer photo by Lynne Conner)

A man and his sponsor wait at the altar of Cathedral of St. Peter during the Feb. 2 Rite of Election.

**Dixon**

**St. Patrick:** †Alicia Eastman, †Ciera Lewis

**Elburn**

**St. Gall:** †Blake Ramirez, †Bailey Ramirez

**Elgin**

**St. Joseph:** †Ariel Ceron, †Lionel Perez, †Roberto Urizar, †Joel Fredricks Jr., †Matthew Trudeau, †Adrian J. Martinez, †Alejandro Brito, †Pedro Carmona Calderon, †Alberto Castillo, †Mari Cruz Cortez, †Claudia Delgado, †Kathia Janelly Franco, †Cayetana Garcia, †Claudia Gomez, †Gabriela Gomez, †Cindy Gonzalez, †Lizette Gonzalez, †Alfredo Gutierrez, †Gabriela Hernandez, †Liliana Hernandez, †Valentina Jaurer, †Olga Lopez, †Ruben Lopez, †Juan Jose Macias, †Julio C. Martinez, †Alejandro Medina, †Mario A. Moreno, †Magaly Ortega, †Erika Pineda, †Jonathan Pizano, †Mayra Mariela Ramirez, †Micaela Sanchez, †Raul Sandoval, †Julieta Solano

**St. Laurence:** †Robin Koessl, †Edward Mallett, †Mollie Mallett

**St. Mary:** †Michelle Kossakowski, †Daniel Benito Perez, †Michael Paul Strong, †Bethany Grace Mavromatis, †Fernando Vargas Jr., †Orlando Anselmo, †Sandra Cabral, †Saray Flores, †Misael Montes, †Angel Rodriguez, †Guadalupe Zavala

**St. Thomas More:** †Erin Elizabeth Curtin, †Deborah Joy Foshager, †Amy O'Brien, †Jeffrey M. Winter

**Freeport**

**St. Joseph:** †Brandon D. Busker

**Galena**

**St. Mary:** †Robert Craig Albaugh

**St. Michael:** †Janelle Anne Keefler

**Geneva**

**St. Peter:** †Gordon Sorce, †James Walker, †Katharine Bailey, †Mark Baldrige, †Amie Herrera, †Emily Berglund, †Kristi Lupo, †Alyssa Mansfield, †Joshua Mansfield, †Grant Weaver

**Genoa**

**St. Catherine of Genoa:** †Maurice Eide, †Bill Erdmann, †Chad Peterson, †Laura Poolgoriski, †Justin Weaver

**Harvard**

**St. Joseph:** †Tasha Levolia Tucker, †Rocio Escobar, †Gerardo Hernandez, †John Henry Meyer, †Christie Michelle Mitchem, †Diane Terrell, †Vince Fiorio,

†Renee Brady, †Merari Navarro, †Carolina Rivera, †Christopher Adan, †Luis Adan Sr., †Karina Avila, †Santiago Barranco, †Edith de la Rosa Morales, †Hermelindo de la Rosa, †Manuel Enriquez, †Rocio Escobar, †Banifacio Garcia, †Enrique Gonzalez Rivera, †Gerardo Hernandez, †Violeta Hernandez, †Osvaldo Nova, †Cruz L. Nova Rivera, †Gerardo Ortiz, †Jose Luis Ramirez, †Cristiana Sanchez, †Mireya del Consuelo Sanchez Hernandez, †Maria Santos Hernandez, †Leticia Valdez, †Cristian Quintana

**Huntley**

**St. Mary:** †Breanne Edwardson, †Daniel Koss, †Robert Lowenstein, †George Shirey, †Kate Albertsen, †Kristan Amore, †Melissa Carstens, †Kyle Corder, †Christine Feeley, †Kaye Hermie, †Charlene Hilston, †Fred Laramie, †Sally Lopez, †Steven Morris, †Kelly Powers, †Barry Sanders, †Steven Wood, †Tosh Zastrow, †Jennifer Chapin, †Steven Sarcinelli

**Johnsburg**

**St. John the Baptist:** †William Parrot, †Eric Fischer, †Judy Fojtik, †Kieth Von Allmen, †Scott Kurek, †Damion Moore, †Lisa Mulvihill, †Jonathan Olsen

**Loves Park**

**St. Bridget:** †Nicole Christensen, †Richard Johnson, †Scott Lanthrip, †Natasha McCluskey, †Mike Wolfe, †Sandra Conness, †Veronica Corwin, †Erin Lanthrip, †Patrick Powers, †Craig Thomas, †Kristen Geishert, †Erin Rodriguez

**Maple Park**

**St. Mary of the Assumption:** †Marcus Brian Smith, †David C. Beane, †Regina Renee Smith, †Michelle Lynn Urick

**Marengo**

**Sacred Heart:** †Kaitlyn Karr, †Star Lains, †Joseph Mozal, †Sarah Wise

**McHenry**

**Holy Apostles:** †David Berrard, †William Ratts, †Candi Reiche, †Shannon Sell, †Steve Sell, †Dawn Wilberg, †Sandra Yunker, †Viviana Emigdio Ignacia, †Isai Garcia, †Patricia Garduno, †April Hernandez, †Cynthia Kottke, †Christian Espinal, †Citlali Cabañas Mendez, †Ariana Gonzalez Prado

**St. Patrick:** †Jaclyn Schwab

**Oregon**

**St. Mary:** †Donna Fellows, †Vicki Moore, †Ronald Parkins

**Richmond**

**St. Joseph:** †Dominick Mowry

**Rockford**

**Holy Family:** †Rebecca Bach, †Roger Engstrom, †Karley Gifford, †Dr. Joan Kole, †Cheryl Lennox, †Nicole McDermott, †Heather Paul, †Eric Escorcina, †Ken Johnson, †Kellen Price, †Amy Bellone, †Erika Bronowski, †Manu Chanthavy, †Amanda Hastings

**St. Anthony of Padua:** †Timothy Scott Kilbreath, †Maria Guadalupe Carrillo, †Jolen Tomlinson

**St. Edward:** †Brian Clark, †Louann Devlin, †Larry Franks, †Dana Lauren, †Dalyn Tsosie, †Veronica Miles, †Christine Clark, †Susan Gomez, †Glen Muench, †Brandy Alvarez, †Nicole Brown,

†Suzanne Muench, †Nadwa Lisette Silva, †Hilario Aguirre, †Isidro Carrillo, †Mario Corales, †Israel Covarrubias, †Luciano Gomez, †Christopher Rodriguez

**St. James:** †Todd Fagen, †Amanda Riveria

**St. Peter Cathedral:** †Erica Larson, †Raymond Taylor, †Whitney Curry, †Sarah DeWitt, †James Weerda, †Vanessa Aguilar, †Jose Barraza, †Brandon Brock, †Consuelo Camacho, †Dariana Castaneda, †Yvonne Chapa, †Maiya Johnson, †Bianca Juarez-Patlan

**St. Rita:** †Taryn Seyller, †Ashley Taylor, †Dustin Kirby, †Amy Phillip, †Stephanie Kirby, †Joseph Merkel

**Sandwich**

**St. Paul the Apostle:** †Denise Minnick

**Somonauk**

**St. John the Baptist:** †Rick Taber

**South Beloit**

**St. Peter:** †Mackenzie Butson, †Shawnee Martin, †George Borkenhagen, †Logan Brown, †Ben D'Haese, †Mary D'Haese, †Renée Lampher, †Alice Villarreal

**St. Charles**

**St. John Neumann:** †Diane Markowski, †Scott Snyder, †Robert Babyar, †Jacquelyn Fedele, †Timothy Schiffbauer, †Amber Voltz, †Thomas Voltz, †Kurt Wandrey, †Tom Weber, †Erin Rose McGreal, †Riane Shea DeGrazia, †Mark McCarty

**St. Patrick:** †Marco Antonio Arellano, †Jordan G. Arellano, †Carlos Jovanny Medina, †Alan Jesus Mendoza, †Alexis Javier Lima, †Julio Rayo

**Spring Grove**

**St. Peter:** †Theodore Lawrence Schuck

**Sterling**

**Sacred Heart:** †Lindsay Anderson, †Paul Anderson, †Melissa Billet

**Sugar Grove**

**St. Katharine Drexel:** †Michelle Christiansen, †Joseph Kraus, †Russell Shea, †Ellen Batorson, †Colin Hendricks, †James Kidd, †Heidi Kintz, †Deane Mayerhofer, †Jane Pietras, †Dana Sanagustin, †Kristof Schneider, †Jessica Hancock

**Virgil**

**SS. Peter and Paul:** †Dana Lauren, †Randi Mullis-Warren, †Joseph Ayres, †Kyle Ayres, †Diane Burkhart, †Brandon Schaden

**Wonder Lake**

**Christ the King:** †Tracie Von Bergen

**Woodstock**

**St. Mary:** †Tracey Virginia Belamy, †Sarah Wilhoit, †Briana Dawn Bigelow, †James Michael Friesema, †William Walter Papke, †Kristin Elizabeth Light, †Alyson B. McGowan, †Jessica Lynn Russel, †Cody Sheriss, †Virginia Siviniskis, †Argelia Bastida, †Maria Teresa Esquivel, †Carlos Esquivel Ortiz, †Wilmer Omar Galeas, †Carlos Herrera, †Alejandro Quintana, †Patricia Reyes, †Hermila Urbina, †Lucerito Villanueva, †Maria Victoria Villanueva





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- Catholic Elementary School Financial Support for the Diocese of Rockford



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- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Rockford Diocesan Response to U. S. and World-wide Disasters and Needs
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic Elementary School Financial Support for the Diocese of Rockford

**OPTION 3**

*To make your donation on-line, visit: [www.rockforddiocese.org/donate](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate)*



## News in Brief

### Vatican starts hiring freeze, forbids overtime in effort to cut costs

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican announced an immediate end to new hires, wage-increases and overtime in an effort to cut costs and offset budget shortfalls. Pope Francis, with input from the Vatican's central accounting office, also determined that volunteers could be used to help provide the labor needed to make up for the hiring freeze and eventual attrition. Cardinal-designate Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, sent a letter, dated Feb. 13, to the heads of all Vatican offices, institutions and agencies. He said the budget forecast for 2014 "necessitated the immediate adoption of some measures needed to contain" personnel costs. The secretary of state's letter said the budget forecast expected a cash shortfall for 2014; the measures were to start immediately.



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# Collaboration Helps Response to Typhoon

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
*Catholic News Service*

TACLOBAN, Philippines—The response by Catholic aid and development agencies to November's Typhoon Haiyan emergency has been marked by closer collaboration rooted in each organization's strengths and strong ties to the Philippine church.

Several agency leaders who gathered in early February to review typhoon recovery efforts told Catholic News Service the teamwork is making their humanitarian efforts more unified, ensuring that fewer people miss out on vital assistance.

The effort involves Catholic Relief Services; Caritas Australia; Trocaire, the Irish Catholic aid agency; and CAFOD, the relief and development agency of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

Agency leaders also credited the work of the National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, known as NASSA, for its deeply connected network of parish volunteers who can be rallied in an emergency.

The result has been a wider distribution of emergency housing materials, household items and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies in the most



Members of an international relief delegation stand near a water bladder in Tanauan, Philippines, Feb. 5.

devastated communities, said Joe Curry, country representative for CRS in the Philippines.

"Each agency knows each other pretty well, and we get the needs assessments, and we know what kind of programming we need to put in place," Curry told CNS.

Carolyn Woo, CRS president, said the effort allows her agency to learn from the others working in the Philippines.

CRS has used its expertise in emergency shelter construction to begin building temporary structures for families who have lost their homes in rural communities near Palo. CRS designed two types of shelters made from the wood of coconut trees felled by the storm. Construction in communities began in early February, as the emergency part of the agencies' response wound down and they moved into long-term recovery mode.

Curry said CRS plans to

build about 20,000 shelters in the next two years. An estimated 33 million coconut trees were felled by the storm, assuring a ready supply of wood.

While CRS was building the shelters, CAFOD used its expertise in water services to provide clean water in communities around Tanauan, near Palo, where Haiyan's floods ruptured normally secure water lines.

Using some of the \$5 million raised in parish collections and another \$7.5 million in grants from the British government, CAFOD was able to place 18 water bladders in communities around Tanauan so that residents could access clean water until pipeline repairs are made. Water is trucked in to fill the bladders.

Father Edwin Gariguez, NASSA's executive secretary, described such work as complementary. He said collaboration is necessary to avoid duplicating services to some people in need and overlooking others.

Eamonn Meehan, Trocaire's executive director, told CNS the idea of wider collaboration surfaced in mid-2012, as the agencies faced repeated emergencies in the typhoon-prone nation. In response to Haiyan, Trocaire has supported its sister Caritas Internationalis agencies with nearly \$1.5 million, he said.

## Rate of Bible Illiteracy High

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a recent class at Wheaton College, English professor Leland Ryken asked his students what John Milton was referring to when he mentioned "the broad way" in one of his sonnets.

Not one student in the class of 35 at the Rev. Billy Graham's alma mater acknowledged it as a reference to the broad path of destruction in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

"There's no reason for anyone to be surprised at the extent of biblical illiteracy in the general population," Ryken said in an email to Catholic News Service. "The Bible has been systematically excised from the curriculum in public education and from culture generally."

As part of its "Pass it On"

campaign, the British Bible Society released a study showing 43 percent of children had never heard the story of the Crucifixion. This trend, however, is not exclusively British.

Ryken said biblical literacy "is only marginally better" in the United States.

Last year, the American Bible Society showed 57 percent of U.S. adults ages 18 to 28 read their Bible less than three times per year or never.

There used to be "an undercurrent of people having a vague familiarity of the Bible," even if they did not attend a church, said Cackie Upchurch, director of the Catholic-based Little Rock Scripture Study in Arkansas.

"That's not the presumption



(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

A young woman holds a Bible study guide while attending a New Testament class at St. Luke Church in Brentwood, N.Y.

anymore at all," she said.

In a September 2010 survey of Americans' general religious knowledge by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, white evangelicals correctly answered an average of 5.1 out of seven Bible questions, compared with 4.4 among atheists and agnostics and 4.3 among Jews. Catholics averaged 3.8 correct; only 42 percent of U.S. Catholics who responded could correctly identify Genesis as the first book of the Bible.

The trend of people lacking knowledge of Bible stories is "obviously troubling," Upchurch said, but "at the same time, it's an opportunity. ... It tells us there's a possibility of ways to reach other people."

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## Catholic Forum with Bishop Malloy

Live on WROK Radio, 1440 AM in Rockford and on the Web. For live streaming audio on the Web, go to <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org>, click on Bishop Malloy and then click on Catholic Forum.





NATION / WORLD

# Pope Establishes Financial Panel

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—In a move reflecting both his drive to reform the Vatican bureaucracy and his oft-stated desire to include laypeople in the leadership of the church, Pope Francis established a new panel, to include almost as many lay members as clerics, to oversee the finances of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

Another new office, to be headed by Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, will implement the panel's policies.

The Vatican announced the changes in a statement Feb. 24, explaining they would "enable more formal involvement of senior and experienced experts in financial administration, planning and reporting, and will ensure better use of resources," particularly for "our works with the poor and marginalized."

The Council for the Economy will include "eight cardinals and bishops to reflect the universality of the church" and "seven lay experts of different nationalities with strong professional

financial experience," the Vatican said.

The lay members of the new council will exercise an unprecedented level of responsibility for non-clerics in the Vatican, where the highest offices have always been reserved for cardinals and bishops. The Vatican did not release any names of council members.

Reporting to the council will be the new Secretariat for the Economy, which will exercise "authority over all the economic and administrative activities within the Holy See and the Vatican City State," including budget making, financial planning, hiring, procurement and the preparation of detailed financial statements.

"I have always recognized the need for the church to be guided by experts in this area and will be pleased to be work-



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)  
**Cardinal George Pell**

ing with the members of the new Council for the Economy as we approach these tasks," Cardinal Pell said in a statement released by the Archdiocese of Sydney, which said he would take up his new position at the Vatican "by the end of March."

Pope Francis established the council and the secretariat with an apostolic letter. The same letter provides for the appointment of an auditor general, "who will be empowered to conduct audits of any agency of the Holy See and Vatican City State at any time."

## News in Brief

### Cardinal: Ignorance about marriage is no reason to change doctrine

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Just because many Catholics do not understand the church's teaching about the indissolubility of marriage, that does not mean the church can change that teaching, said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Speaking to reporters Feb. 25 — just days after the College of Cardinals held a two-day meeting to discuss the pastoral care of families — he said the widespread lack of understanding among Catholics about church doctrine was "lamentable." Not allowing divorced and civilly remarried Catholics access to the Eucharist "is not about my opinion," Cardinal Muller said; it reflects a long history of church teaching and doctrine.



(CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)  
**Cardinal Gerhard Muller**



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Cardinal Gerald Lacroix of Quebec embraces a well-wisher after attending Pope Francis' Mass with new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 23. The previous day, Pope Francis created 19 new cardinals from 15 countries at a consistory attended by his predecessor, retired Pope Benedict XVI.

# Archdioceses Release Settlement Payments

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS)—Two U.S. archdioceses released details on the size of settlements made with victims of clergy sexual abuse.

In the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, net claims and litigation expense, not counting legal fees, for the one-year period ending last June 30 came to \$3.95 million, according to an audit report issued Feb. 13 by the archdiocese.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in what church officials said was the last of its pending abuse lawsuits, reached a \$13 million agreement with 17 clergy sexual abuse victims in mid-February, shortly before the scheduled start of a trial over lawsuits involving al-

leged acts of then-Father Nicolas Aguilar-Rivera, a visiting priest from Mexico who police believe molested more than two dozen boys in 1987.

"The release of our full audited financial report, as well as additional information to explain particular points of interest, is part of our ongoing commitment to improve transparency and accountability, evidenced not only in our ongoing disclosure of clergy with credible claims of abuse of minors, but also through our commitment to improved financial reporting," said Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piche of St. Paul and Minneapolis, vicar general, in a Feb. 13 essay accompanying the financial report.



## Pilgrimage trips conducted by GOLDEN FRONTIER

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Father Alan Hunter

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- Holy Lands — 10 days in November, 2014 ..... **\$3,588**
- Mexico City — 8 days in Feb., 2015..... **\$2,190**
- Eastern Mediterranean & Rome — 14 days in Mar. 2015 ..... **From \$3,496**
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ROCKFORD



# SEASONED OBSERVER

## Hall-of-Famer

### World Class Skating Only the Beginning Of a Full Life for 'Red' Bainbridge

BY AMANDA HUDSON  
News Editor

If we truly are known by the company we keep, Walter "Red" Bainbridge is now officially in good company, including the likes of Blessed Pope John Paul II.

Both were honored, along with a handful of other well-known and less-known athletes, as inductees in the 2014 Sports Faith Hall of Fame on Feb. 23 in Lake Forest.

Named last year as a "Hometown Hero" by Sports Faith International, Bainbridge's awards began much earlier, including many earned for his ice skating in the 1940's.

He is a two-time North American Dance champion, a three-time National Dance champion, a National Silver Dance champion, National Junior Pair champion and a National Junior Men's silver medalist. He was inducted into the Professional Skaters Association Hall of Fame in May 2009.

With his skating partner, Lois Waring, Bainbridge was invited to the 1948 Olympics in Switzerland to demonstrate the sport of ice dancing to the Olympic committee. Other demonstration couples were from England and Belgium.

It was 38 more years before ice dancing became a sport in the Olympics, and only this year, 66 years later, has a U.S. ice dancing couple won gold.

Bainbridge says he turned professional in 1949 so he could attend college. Because of his titles, he was offered a job to teach young skaters.

"I kinda liked teaching," he says of what became a 60-year career. "God was with me even then ... (that blessing) was thanks to Him," he adds.

Working through skating clubs, Bainbridge taught all ages and all levels, from beginners who skated for fun to competitors who went on to win regional, sectional and national honors, and a couple who were bronze and silver medalists at the World Figure Skating Championships.

While managing the ice rink at Michigan State University, he



Bainbridge and his skating partner, Lois Waring, are shown demonstrating ice dancing at the 1948 Olympics in an old photo.



(Observer photos by Amanda Hudson)

Walter "Red" Bainbridge sits amid some of the honors he has received for his athletic prowess and his Catholic values.

## DESTINATION



(CNS photo/Carol Baass Sowa, Today's Catholic newspaper)

### Mission San Jose

## Spanish Missions

San Antonio, Texas

**Destination:** There are plenty of reasons to visit San Antonio, Texas. Even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has selected it for meetings. But a key reason is to see the missions there — and we don't mean the minor league baseball team (although they might be worth a visit, too). We mean the Spanish missions of San Antonio — San Jose, Concepcion, San Juan, Espada and San

Antonio de Valero, which you probably know as the Alamo.

Mass times vary at the missions. For details, check <http://oldspanishmissions.org> and click on Mass Schedule at the Missions.

**Why to go:** The history of the Catholic faith in the Americas is closely tied to the history of Spanish missions, including the five in San Antonio. In January, the U.S. nominated the missions for World Heritage site status. Four of them are part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, through a partnership with



(Observer photo)

This map is from the <http://oldspanishmissions.org/> website.

the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The Alamo, called "The Shrine of Texas Liberty," is operated separately as a state historical site. According to the National Park Service, Mission Concepcion marked the 250th anniversary of its dedication in 2005 and is the only one of the five missions that has its original roof and walls intact, so its interior frescoes retain remnants of their original colors. The park service recommends setting aside two to four hours for the free guided tours, movies, and demonstrations at the missions.



(CNS photo/Today's Catholic)

### Mission Concepcion

**Hours:** The four NPS shrines are open 9 a.m.-5 pm. daily, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Jan. 1.

**(Grand) Kid friendly:** Absolutely.

**Info:** Address: Old Spanish Missions, Inc., P.O. Box 7804, San Antonio, TX 78207-0804 Phone: 210/357-5601. Web: <http://oldspanishmissions.org> or <http://www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm>.

— Compiled by Sharon Boehlefeld

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# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## MCHENRY DEANERY



**Montini Students Plan Cities of Tomorrow For Annual Contest**



Seventh- and eighth-grade enrichment students at Montini School in McHenry competed in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. The project includes designing a virtual city, writing a 1,000-word research essay and a 500-word narrative, building a scale model and giving a presentation. Two teams competed in regional competition in Chicago.

**LEFT:** Students Gary Wigman, Kevin Niehaus, and Jacob Levendoski won "Best Use of Green Technology in Water Management."

**ABOVE:** Students Clayton Jarocki, Krissy Knight, Meghan Lingle, and Hannah Talusan won "Best Design for a Sustainable City."

(Photos provided)



Students who competed at the school level, with their models are (from left) Mike Dowling, Rubi Miderski, Kaylyn Kunz, Danny Serdar, Jacob Levendoski, Kevin Niehaus, Gary Wigman, Meghan Lingle, Clayton Jarocki, Krissy Knight, and Hannah Talusan.

## DEKALB DEANERY



(Photos provided)

Parishioners at St. Mary Parish in DeKalb celebrated the Vietnamese New Year, "Giap Ngo." 2014 is the year of the horse, according to the ancient calendar. The celebration was held Feb. 2 and incorporated Vietnamese customs and costumes into the Mass and reception held afterward. Father Anthony Vu Khac Long (center, above) poses with some of the young women who took part in dances during the event. He is diocesan director of Vietnamese Catholic Ministry and is in residence at St. Mary Parish in DeKalb.



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## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## What's Up

## Wed March 12

**Deadline for March 21 What's Up (For events March 24-30)**

## MCHENRY

**Intro to Theology of the Body:** 6-7 p.m. (Wednesdays through April 16); St. Patrick Parish, 3500 Washington St. Sponsor: parish marriage ministry. Free. Info: parish office, 815/385-0025.

## Thu March 13

## ALGONQUIN

**Human trafficking talks:** 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.; St. Margaret Mary Parish McDonnell Hall, 111 S. Hubbard St. Documentary: "Nefarious, Merchant of Souls." Speaker: Kristen Guerrieri. Same presentation both times. Free; donations accepted. Info: Connie McDonough, 847/854-7668; stmmsteward@gmail.com

## Fri March 14

## FREEPORT

**"42nd Street":** 7 p.m. (also 7 p.m. March 15, 2 p.m. March 16); Aquin

## STERLING DEANERY



(Photo provided)

Jake Ackman, fifth grader at St. Mary School in Dixon won the school spelling bee. He was to advance to the regional bee at Dixon High School on Feb. 20. The alternate for the bee was Anna Whelan and runner up, Raymond Lohse. Sarah Campbell was the moderator for the bee.



(Photo provided)

On Feb. 9, St. Patrick Parish in Dixon held a wedding cake reception to celebrate World Marriage Day. Walter and Mary Fassler (left), who were married on Aug. 4, 1945, were the longest-married couple. Margaret and Nicholas Hewitt (right) were the newest-married, since June 22, 2013. Father Bernard Sehr (center), parochial administrator, blessed everyone and sliced cake.

Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School auditorium, 1419 S. Galena Ave. Sponsor: Aquin Theater Department. Cost: \$7 adults; \$5 students and senior citizens. Info: 815/234-3154, ext. 224.

## Sat March 15

## ALBANY

**Spaghetti supper:** 4-7 p.m.; St. Patrick Parish, Ill. Rte. 84. Dine-in or carry-out. Cost: \$8 adults; \$4 children 5-12; free children 4 and younger.

## ALGONQUIN

**Dinner and Shamrock Shave:** 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:45-10 p.m. shaves; St. Margaret Mary School, 111 S. Hubbard St. Proceeds for St. Vincent de Paul Society and pediatric cancer. Also music by Katie Scullin, Irish dancing, jig and Irish costume contests, kid's activities, door prizes and raffles. Cost: \$2 adults; \$1 children; free admission with meal purchase.

## DEKALB

**Gift of Self:** 10:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m.; Christ the Teacher (Newman Center) Parish, 512 Normal Road. Marriage preparation for engaged

couples, including Church teaching on sexuality and family planning. Sponsor: Diocesan Life and Family Evangelization Office. Cost: \$150. Info: 815/399-4300, ext. 377; www.rockforddiocese.org/familylife/.

## SOMONAUK

**75th Corned Beef dinner:** 4:30-7 p.m. dine-in, 3:30-7 p.m. drive-through; St. John the Baptist Parish, 320 S. Depot St. Dine-in at parish center; drive-through in alley off Washington Street. Corned beef, cabbage and fixings. Cost: \$12 adults; \$6 children 6-12 (dine-in only); free children 5 and younger. Info: 815/498-2010.

## SOUTH BELOIT

**Medical benefit:** 6-11 p.m.; St. Peter Church, 301 Oak Grove Ave. Proceeds for Michaela Ambrose,

17, of Roscoe. Corned beef, cabbage and more; desserts; beer and wine. Entertainment: Scratch n Dent band, Romeo Castaneda DJ, Irish Dancers, bag pipes. Cost: \$25 per person; \$200 for table for eight. Info: Jennifer Ambrose, Staci Ambrose or CJ Newburn, 978-482-7283; michaelaambrosefund@gmail.com.

## Sun March 16

## ROCKFORD

**81st Corned beef dinner:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; St. Patrick Parish, 2505 School St. Corned beef or ham; cabbage and more. Dine-in or carry-out. Cost: \$8.50 adults; \$7.50 senior citizens; \$5.50 children 12 and younger. Info: Brenda Weigelt, 815/965-9539; patrickrockford@sbcglobal.net.

## FREEPORT DEANERY



(Photo provided)

Father Max Lasrado, pastor, and altar servers from the parishes of St. Michael and St. Mary in Galena, and Holy Trinity in Scales Mound take a break during the annual Galena Knights of Columbus pool party.

## Appeal to Benefit Local, Global Causes

From page 1

Oklahoma and to Haiti.

In his letter to parishioners on behalf of this International Appeal, Bishop Malloy notes that, "Our abstinence and fasting during this holy season ... also serve to remind us that there are those that suffer daily from hunger, violence and

atrocities from war."

"By giving to this Appeal," he adds, "we can help to make visible the face of Christ around the globe ..."

Contributions to the International Appeal may be made through your parish or you are welcome to donate online at [www.rockforddiocese.org/donate](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/donate). Donations may be designated for one or more causes of the appeal, or donors may opt to allow Bishop Malloy to determine the distribution of their donation.

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## Save the Date

## March 17

## ALGONQUIN

**Drug awareness night:** 7-9 p.m.; St. Margaret Mary Parish, 111 S. Hubbard St. Speakers from police, hospital and coroner's office. For teens and adults. Info: Jonathan Bator, 847/658-7881.

## March 18-19

## ROCKFORD

**Seniors Lent retreat:** Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Road. For men and women, 55 and older. Cost: \$95 private room; \$80 per person shared room; \$130 per married couple. Info: 815/965-5011; jlotko@rockforddiocese.org.

## March 21

## SPRING GROVE

**Stations and Taize prayer:** 7 p.m. stations, 7:30 p.m. Taize service; St. Peter Parish, 2118 Main Street Road.

## March 22

## AURORA

**Seraphim Ball:** 6 p.m.-midnight; Gaslite Manor Banquets, 2485 Church Road. Proceeds for Holy Angels School. Masquerade party (masks optional), cocktails, jazz by David Kellen Quartet, live and automated silent auction, dinner, DJ, raffles and open bar. Cost: \$100 per person. Info: HASeraphim@gmail.com.

## March 25

## AURORA

**Rosary for unborn:** after 6:30 p.m. Lent talk; Holy Angels Parish,

## March 29

## BATAVIA

**Pancake breakfast:** 7:30-11 a.m.; Holy Cross Parish, 2300 Main St. Proceeds for Scout Troop 21. Cost: \$6 per person; children 5 and younger free with paid adult. Info: Liz Signorella, 630/408-4045.

## April 5

## JOHNSBURG

**Bunny breakfast:** 8 a.m.-noon; St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, 2304 W. Church St. Sponsor: parish school. Egg hunts, 10 and 11:30 a.m.; free face painting; pictures with Easter Bunny. Cost: \$7 adults; \$6 senior citizens; \$4 children 3-9; free children 2 and younger. Info: 815/384-1477; www.stjohnschool.com.

## April 5-6

## JOHNSBURG

**Bake sale, raffle:** after 4 p.m. Mass April 5; after 7, 9 and 11 a.m. Masses April 6; St. John the Baptist Parish, 2304 W. Church St. Sponsor: Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

## April 7

## AURORA

**Prayers for military:** 2 p.m.; Holy Angels Chapel, 180 S. Russell Ave. Divine Mercy chaplet and rosary. Sponsor: Knights of Columbus.

## Going on Now

## FREEPORT

**Birth kit collection:** Aquin Central Catholic Junior Senior High School's PAWS — Pro-Life Activists Willing to Stand — will be assembling birthing kits for the people of Haiti. They hope to do 100 kits, but still need items including: newborn hats, bath towels, Ivory bar soap, hand sanitizer (small bottles) and single-edge razor blades. We can always use cash to help cover the shipping costs. Bring donations to the school, 1419 S. Galena Ave., during regular school hours. Info: 815/235-3154, ext. 230; connie.gogel@aquinschools.org.

## Don't miss this spellbinding Live Performance

By St. Luke Productions

Thursday, April 10 @ 7pm

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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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Adults \$10  
Kids 12 & under: \$5  
(Add \$5 at the door)



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Lent Missions, Events

### AURORA

**March 23-24**  
**Parish mission:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Holy Angels Parish, 180 S. Russell Ave. Presenter: Father Kenneth Wasilewski, director of the diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate. Topics: Sacrifice and Covenant; Suffering as Sacrifice. Free; offerings accepted. Info: 630/897-1194; www.holy-angels.org.

### BATAVIA

**March 14-16**  
**Women's retreat:** 8 p.m. March 14-2 p.m. March 16; Nazareth Retreat House, 717 N. Batavia Ave. Sponsor: Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. Register by March 10; limited space. Cost: \$60. Info: Linda Isleib, 630/879-1296.

### ROCKFORD

**March 8-13**  
**Parish mission:** weekend Masses, 7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m. Monday-Thursday; Holy Family Parish, 4401 Highcrest Road. Presenter: Father George Knab, OMI. Topic: Symphony of Faith. Topics vary at each session. Confessions March 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: 815/398-4280, www.holyfamilyrockford.org.

### WONDER LAKE

**March 8-11**  
**Parish mission:** 5 p.m. Mass March 8, 8 and 10 a.m. Masses March 9, 7 p.m. March 9-11; Christ the King Parish, 5006 E. Wonder Lake Road. Presenter: Msgr. Martin Heinz, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Dundee and St. Mary, Gilberts. Topic: "From the Desert to the Cross: Our Journey of Salvation." Info: 815/653-2561.

## Lent Suppers

### AURORA

**KC Fish fries:** 4-7 p.m.; Fridays, March 7-April 11; St. Rita of Cascia Parish, 750 Old Indian Trail. Cod or tilapia plus fixings. Cost: \$10. Info: <http://www.knightsofcolumbusil.org/kofc/kofc14825/Home.aspx>.

**Fish fry:** 4-7 p.m.; March 14; Marmion Academy, 1000 Butterfield Road. Drive-through only. Follow signs behind school. Proceeds for Marmion fishing team. Cost: \$10 per meal.

### BATAVIA

**KC Fish fry:** 4:30-8 p.m.; Fridays March 7-April 11; Riverview Banquets, 1117 N. Washington. Buffet with cash bar. Parties 8 or larger should call ahead. Cost: \$13 adults; \$7 children 4-10; free children 3 and younger. Info: 630/761-1590.

See more Lent missions, events dinners and stations in the Feb. 28 issue.

## More Lent Plans?

If we don't yet have your special suppers, St. Patrick's dinners or other Lent events, please send them now. Include dates, times, locations, and costs (if any).

Please use the Submit Events and News form at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/contact-us> or send by mail. (See box on page 10.)

## ROCKFORD DEANERY



(Photo provided)

Fourth-grade students at St. Bridget School in Loves Park recently won \$1,000 in a contest held through the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District. The money will help support the parish's Angel Garden and church food pantry. The winning bid for the decorated barrel came from Dwayne Proctor, a Durand farmer and retired SWDC board member, and Tessa Chadwick of Galesburg, assistant state conservationist for area four for the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Analese Vondrak's drawing from Mrs. Kathy Toldo's fourth-grade class was the winning design from 17 submitted by participating schools and organizations.

## Hall-of-Famer

From page 8 assisted some Special Olympians with their skating efforts.

"It didn't matter what level of skater (I taught)," Bainbridge says. "Most were rank-and-file kids. I got a pleasure with seeing them make progress."

After having cancer treatments with nine surgeries, two hip replacements, and "a heck of a fall" when a youngster accidentally tripped him, Bainbridge stopped teaching and hung up his skates in 2008. But he says he hasn't missed it because "the Lord has given me enough stuff to get into."

Bainbridge has volunteered over many years, including on the boards of a number of pro-life organizations. He volunteered for the Respect Life Office in the Rockford Diocese for 10 years and now serves weekly as a volunteer ombudsman for long term care through Catholic Charities.

In his acceptance speech on Feb. 23, Bainbridge said he was raised by wonderful parents, but that it was not a Christian household.

"While God knew me, I had no idea who He was," he said. "It was May 1976 that I dedicated my life to Christ ... then in 1995 the Holy Spirit led (my wife, Patricia, and me) to the Catholic Church."

Even before becoming a Christian, Bainbridge said he was told by parents that he was a good role model, and that "the Lord seemed to use me to get His values out to my pupils." After becoming a Christian, he says, "the most rewarding were those times when pupils either became Christians and/or pro-life."

He considers himself "blessed," with one exception: "My only regret in life," he says, "is that I did not come to faith when I was young. Skating was great, but life with God is awesome."

## MCHENRY DEANERY



(Photo provided)

Junior high students at St. Margaret Mary School in Algonquin raised \$3,191.38 for their stewardship project. Preschool through eighth-grade students participated in the Heifer "Read to Feed" Project. Thanks to their efforts, many families around the world will be receiving livestock and farming materials.

**Photo Tips:** Submitted photos must be in focus or we will not be able to use them. When submitting electronic images, send the original .jpg format from the camera with a dpi of 72. The largest dimension should be at least 12 inches. For best reproduction please send uncropped, full-size photos.



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## FAITH FORUM

## He Did Good Works Till He Died, and Never Again Did He Utter Another Public Word

A parishioner came to his Church, fell on his knees in front of the altar, and shouted in a loud voice, "I am not Job. You cannot keep piling things up on me, God. You have to help me."

Weeping almost uncontrollably, the man continued to call out, "Why me? Why can't it be someone else, God? Please help me."

Eventually, after he had calmed down, the man stopped at the holy water font to bless himself. He turned back toward the altar and said in a quieter voice, "I don't understand, but I'll be back."

Lent is special time to recognize temptation in our lives. Temptation is usually easier to get into than to get out. No one is exempt from temptation.

Sometimes it is not the "big temptations" but the small ones that cause the most problems — they add up for a big fall. No, no, not the number, but the fall from grace.

Adam and Eve show us how sin entered into human life, with the denial of responsibility and the shifting of blame (passing the buck) that so often characterize sinful behavior.

In the garden, God had planted trees for Adam and Eve and established a moral order. God gave them permission to eat from any tree; only the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was forbidden.

The serpent, a symbol for temptation, convinced them that God's order only kept them from becoming more like God. They wanted what they could not have, nor be.

### Liturgy of the Church



by Father John Slampak, STL  
Member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission

[jslampak@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:jslampak@rockforddiocese.org)

The result was shame and broken relationships: they hid their nakedness, they hid from God, and they blamed one another. Sin brought suffering. They saw who they were and could not face it.

The most difficult thing about receiving forgiveness through the sacrament of confession is not that you have to confess your sins to another person, but the fact that you have to hear yourself say it. When you say your sins out loud you have no choice except to face your sins, no more hiding or covering up.

John Profumo, a former Minister of War in Great Britain, got involved with a woman and nearly toppled his government. He immediately resigned. He did not hit the talk show circuit, nor Oprah, nor the *National Enquirer*, nor did he write a book or ever seek public sympathy. He contacted a charitable mission in London and asked if they needed help. He remained there for the next 40 years. He did good works till he died, and never again did he utter another public word.

That was his way of achieving personal redemption for the public shame he had caused. He took responsibility for his sin. He did not blame God. He did not blame society or his parents. He took responsibility.

In dealing with a transgression call it what it is: sin. Not a mistake. Not simply being human.

It is sin. Take responsibility for it, then take it to God for forgiveness and healing.

*"No test has been sent to you that does not come to all. God keeps His promise. He will not let you be tested beyond your strength. Along with the test He will give you a way out of it so that you may be able to endure it."*

He did it for His son and He will do it for you.

## The Real Challenge in Creativity — To Enter the Song

There are three kinds of performers: The first, while singing a song or doing a dance, are making love to themselves. The second, while performing, are making love to the audience. The third, while on stage, are making love to the song, to the dance, to the drama itself.

Of course, it's not difficult to discern who the better performer is. The one making love to the song, of course, best honors the song and draws energy from some deeper place. And he or she does this by entering into and channeling the energy of the song rather than by entering into and channeling their own energy or the energy of the audience. What a good artist does, whether that be a singer, a writer, a painter, a dancer, a craftsperson, a carpenter, or a gardener is tap into the deep energies at the heart of things and draw on them to create something that is of God, namely, something that is one, true, good, and beautiful. In the end, and this is true of all good art and all good performance, creativity is not about the person doing the creation. It's about oneness, truth, goodness, and beauty.

This holds true for all creativity and art, and it holds true too for all good teaching, catechesis, preaching, and evangelization. At the end of the day, it has to be about truth, goodness, beauty, and God, not about oneself or one's audience.

This is important for many reasons. Not least among those reasons is the fact that many of us hesitate to express our creativity for fear that we will be too-amateur and too-unskilled to measure up. And so we don't write poetry, write music, write novels, paint pictures, do sculpture, take up dancing, do carpentry, raise flowers, or do gardening because we fear that what we will produce will be too unprofessional to stand out in any way or to measure up in a way that it can be published or exhibited publicly so as to receive recognition and honor. And so, mostly, we mute and hide

### In Exile



by Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI  
President of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas

[www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com)

our creative talents because we cannot do what the great ones do. We punish ourselves by thinking this way: If no one will publish it, no sense writing it. If nobody will buy it, no sense painting it. If nobody will admire it, no sense doing it.

But that's the wrong idea of creativity. We are meant to create things, not because we might get them published and receive honor and money for them. We are meant to create things because creativity, of all kinds, has us enter into the deep center of energy at the heart of things. In creativity we join ourselves to God's energy and help channel God's transcendental qualities: oneness, truth, goodness, and beauty. Ultimately, it isn't important that what we do gets publicly recognized, gets published, or earns us a monetary reward. Creativity is its own reward. When you act like God, you get to feel like God — or, at least, you get to feel some wonderful divine energy.

Moreover, the energy we feel in creativity, no matter how amateur and private the effort, helps still the fires of envy and hostility inside of us. For example, Michael Ondaatje, the author of "The English Patient," in a recent novel, "Anil's Ghost," puts it this way: He describes an artist, Ananda, who has just refurbished a statue. Finishing his work, Ananda looks with a certain pride and satisfaction on what he has just done and, though a non-believer, fills with a godly energy: "As an artificer now he did not celebrate the greatness of a faith. But he knew if he did not remain an artificer he would become a demon. The war around him was to do with demons." Envy and hostility have to do with frustrated creativity. If we aren't creating something, we're hurting something. If we aren't creative, we soon become bitter. So how do we become creative?

The poet, William Stafford, sharing something he himself did on a daily basis, used to give his students this challenge: Get up every morning and, before you do anything else, write a poem. More often than not, the students would protest: How can you do that? A person can't always be creative? Stafford's answer: Lower your standards!

Continued on page 13

## The Pope on ... Anointing the Sick

From page 2

It is Jesus himself who comes to relieve the sick person, to give him strength, to give him hope, to help him; and to forgive his sins. And this is very beautiful!

And one must not think that this is taboo, because in times of pain and illness it is always

good to know that we are not alone: the priest and those who are present during the anointing of the sick, in fact, represent the entire Christian community that as one body huddles around the one who suffers and his family, nurturing their faith and hope, and supporting them through their prayers and fraternal warmth.

But the greatest comfort comes from the fact that it is the Lord Jesus himself who makes himself present in the sacrament, who takes us by the hand, who caresses us as he did with the sick, and who reminds us that we already belong to him and that nothing — not even evil and death — can ever separate us from him.

Are we in the habit of calling for the priest so that he might come to our sick — I am not speaking about those who are sick with the flu, for three or four days, but rather about a serious illness — and our elderly, and give them this sacrament, this comfort, this strength of Jesus to continue on? Let us do so!

### Teaching Moment



by Bishop Emeritus Thomas G. Doran

[observer@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:observer@rockforddiocese.org)

## Should a Catholic Have a DNR?

**Q** My grandmother is in assisted living and has requested a DNR — do not resuscitate — order. Is it okay for a Catholic of advanced age to have a do not resuscitate order?

**A** This can be a difficult question and is quite general and brings forth the necessity to know your faith and understand and appreciate God's gift of life to each person.

This question is definitely one that should be discussed with family and whoever will be in charge of details at the time of a person's death.

Catholics are obliged to take care of themselves and do all that is necessary to maintain health and life for themselves and those in their charge and to do so until that life draws to its natural conclusion. Catholics are not obliged to use extraordinary means to maintain a life that God and nature has brought to its natural end.

There are many elderly people who need full or part-time assisted living arrangements. And there are many others who require the services of a skilled nursing facility.

If the Catholic you are talking about is a person of advanced age and lives in one of these arrangements and decides that if something should happen to them, like a heart attack for example, while in the particular facility and they do not wish to be resuscitated, then they are simply requesting to accept God's will for their life.

This is a decision that should be arrived at with sincere personal reflection and honest discussion with family members. That apparently is the will of your grandmother.

If I were advising someone, I would say you have to go to the bitter end; however, Catholics are under no obligation to employ extraordinary means when the possibility of prolonging life is questionable even though these means are deemed to be useful and desirable. For the elderly, many times, that can certainly be the case.

Send your topics or questions for Bishop Doran's Teaching Moment to [observer@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:observer@rockforddiocese.org)



VIEWPOINTS

VOICES  
IN THE NEWS

**F**amilies are ripped apart, migrant workers are exploited, and human beings continue to die in the desert. This suffering must end.

— Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., in a recent teleconference after Catholic bishops and evangelical leaders wrote to Congress about the U.S. immigration debate

Ordinary Time

CNS/ Martha Campbell



Yes, you have to say a prayer of Thanks for the Shrimp. Just a little one.

Mistakes, Regrets, Grief and Time Travel

I was sitting around a table with other widowers and widows when a phrase from my early parenting days popped into my head.

During these support groups, it's not unusual to talk about the guilt a person feels. It comes out in questions such as: Why did I do that as her caregiver? Why didn't I do this? Why did I say this to him the last time I saw him on the day he died suddenly and unexpectedly? Why didn't I say that? Why didn't I tell him just one more time how much ...?

Your Family



by Bill Dodds

Catholic News Service

The phrase that came to mind was: "The time machine is broken."

That's what my late wife, Monica, and I used to say to our kids when they were going on and on about something that had happened. A sibling did this to him. A classmate did that to her. There was a missed recess or extra homework assignment because one student broke a class rule. It went on and on. Whatever it was, it was an outrage.

I hope Monica and I were patient when we pointed out that there's no going back to change or fix things. Needless to say, none of our three ever answered, "Oh, thank you so much for pointing that out. I feel all better now."

Humans want to change things, to fix them. We want to climb into a machine and get a do-over, and not just for big things, but for little

things that at the time seem like big things.

Why did I pick that paint color for the kitchen? Why did I buy my new computer last week when this week a much better one is on sale? Why didn't I stay in school and get that degree? Why did I switch jobs? Why did I move here? Why did I wait so long to retire?

But, of course, in life, some things can be changed. You can repaint the kitchen, get an even better computer or finish that degree online. Some things, while not "fixed," can be adjusted. We may even start to see the pluses of a new job or location.

Truth be told, some of life's harshest, unchanging realities can lead us to good changes, too. That also comes up during a grief support group.

Some say, "I'm working at taking better care of my own health."

Others say, "I hug my kids and grandkids all the time now and tell them I love them and I don't care if they feel a little embarrassed by that."

The wisest will say, "I still think about what I wish I could have done differently, but I'm starting to remember more of what the two of us did right. What we had. It was so good. And I'm starting to realize that's why, for now, I feel so bad. This grief is awful. That love was worth it."

music, paint, dance, make crafts, do carpentry, or garden to have our efforts published and critically admired. We do it for our souls, to enter a divine dance, to connect ourselves to the heart of things.

Sometimes we cannot save the world, but we can save our own sanity and help bring God into the world by nurturing our own souls.

*Humans want to change things, to fix them. ... But, of course, in life, some things can be changed.*

A Jesuit Brother's Tale of Physical and Spiritual Brawn

Recently, I met Jesuit Brother Pat Douglas, a vocation promoter who could have been selected by central casting. Who better to command attention than a handsome 38-year-old record-holding powerlifter who loves '80s music? You don't get much better than that.

The Omaha, Neb., native is a member of the Society of Jesus — the Jesuits — of the Wisconsin province. He travels through mid-America promoting Jesuit vocations, made all the more appealing right now because of that famous Jesuit, Pope Francis.

For the Journey

by Effie Caldarola



Catholic News Service

Making a commitment today is tough for kids, Brother Pat said. No surprise there — anybody who's hosted a party lately knows how hard it is to get those RSVPs for Friday night, never mind expecting someone to make a lifetime commitment.

"When people ask me about vocations, I ask them to pray that people will have courage," said Brother Pat.

Those pursuing vocations are told to pray for clarity, he said, and even with clarity, the courage of commitment is hard to find.

Brother Pat's vocation journey began in a Jesuit prep school and then while pursuing a sociology/social work degree at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. After graduation, he worked in a corrections facility for youth, where he saw that the environment a person lives in impacts personal development.

"In my experience, about 98 percent of perpetrators are themselves victims of some kind of abuse and usually have either no male role model or a harmful one," he said.

Brother Pat left a fun-loving, bachelor lifestyle behind in 2004. He entered the Jesuits with the desire to be a brother (not a priest). He was the first man in 30 years to take vows as a Jesuit brother in the Wisconsin province.

What's the difference between a brother and a priest?

"Think of me as a bald, muscular nun," said Brother Pat.

Like religious sisters, brothers do not participate in sacramental ministry. Brothers use their talents to work with the poor or in any of the vital ministries of an order. Brother Pat is not on the road to ordination.

In the old days, people might see Jesuit brothers cooking or doing maintenance. As a modern-day brother, Brother Pat has earned master's degrees in counseling and in spirituality.

And there seem to be others in his province preparing to be brothers rather than priests.

The vocation suits Brother Pat well. Assigned to an American Indian reservation, he worked with juvenile offenders and in a methamphetamine rehabilitation facility. He launched a radio program featuring 1980s music called "'80s Attack with Brother Pat." All over the reservation, people would stop him with musical requests.

It was a great way, he said, to be available to people wanting to talk about deeper issues of faith and God.

He's now stationed back home in Omaha where he lives in a dorm at Creighton University. He assists the coach at his old prep school in their state championship powerlifting program and travels to promote vocations.

All of this, he says, is done with "the Jesuit way of proceeding," which is another way of expressing the deeply held Jesuit belief of "finding God in all things."

"You enter people's lives through their door," he explains, "and you can bring them out through your door."

That means meeting them in the locker room or on the radio — you meet people where they are, where they feel comfortable revealing their search for truth.

*"You enter people's lives through their door, and you can bring them out through your door."*

— Brother Pat Douglas

The Real Challenge in Creativity ...

From page 12

He's right! We shouldn't muzzle our creative energies because we don't feel particularly inspired, or because no one will ever take our efforts seriously, or because we cannot get anyone to publish our work, or because what we produce seems amateur and second-rate in comparison to what professionals do. We don't write, make mu-

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Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

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# FOR THE RECORD

## Deaths

**AURORA—Annunciation BVM:** Richard Rowe, 89, Feb. 12;

**BELVIDERE—St. James:** Virginia E. Bush, 84, Feb. 16; Irene V. Sommers, 88, Feb. 24;

**CRYSTAL LAKE—St. Thomas the Apostle:** Antonio Rodriguez, 90, Jan. 2; Estella Villarreal, 65, Jan. 6; Helen Tipps, 83, Jan. 15; Clarence Kelifelter, 90, Jan. 31; Darlene Averman, 70, Feb. 3; John Sherwood, 86, Feb. 19; Barbara Jayne Biltgen, 65, Feb. 16;

**DEKALB—St. Mary:** Helen T. Noble, 88, Feb. 25;

**DIXON—St. Patrick:** Jane Coomes, 54, Jan. 18;

**ELGIN—St. Thomas More:** Dorothy Wilson, 103, Jan. 30; Marion Lahtien, 72, Feb. 7; Geraldine Smith, 72, Feb. 25;

**HUNTLEY—St. Mary:** Margaret Sarrels, 86, Feb. 11; Francis Christopher Bonilla-Wier, 13, Feb. 15;

**MCHENRY—St. Patrick:** Randall Mauer, 48, Feb. 10; Virginia Doherty, 83, Feb. 11; Leonard Thennes, 95, Feb. 23;

**OREGON—St. Mary:** Jerome P. Beck, 83, Feb. 26; Edmund S. Sowa, 90, Feb. 25;

**POLO—St. Mary:** Francis Vock, 89, Feb. 7;

**RICHMOND—St. Joseph:** Margaret Cecilia Perry, 76, Feb. 14;

**ROCKFORD—Holy Family:** Marion Sicotte, 79 Jan. 29; Karen Keller, 74, Jan. 31; John Hackett, 85, Feb. 7; Elisabeth Arbuckle, 93, Feb. 21; Patrick Mera, 91, Feb. 24;

**St. Anthony of Padua:** Virginia Poletto, 84, Feb. 19;

**St. Bernadette:** Edward H.

Sprigler, 71, Dec. 7; Lucille Swanson, 85, Dec. 10; Regina A. Gulotta, 87, Jan. 8; Zeita Marie Friske, 86, Jan. 23;

**ST. CHARLES—St. John Neumann:** Jim Baron, 76, Jan. 31; Albert Zari, 94, Feb. 2; Fred Sullivano, 96, Feb. 7; Fred Cregier, 86, Feb. 10; John Shaffrey, 81, Feb. 25;

**SPRING GROVE—St. Peter:** David Radwanski, 52, Feb. 19;

**STERLING—St. Mary:** Elizabeth L. "Betty" Puckett, 92, Feb. 19; John Paul Golick, 95, Feb. 13; Dr. John Francis Webb, DDS, 91, Feb. 25;

**WEST BROOKLYN—St. Mary:** Mary Jean Koskosky, 89, Feb. 16.

### Sister Bernita Hessling, SSND

**CHICAGO—**Sister M. Bernita Hessling, died of congestive heart failure on Feb. 23, 2014, at Resurrection Life Center, here. She was 104 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 82 years.

Agnes Hessling was born on Jan. 21, 1910, on a farm in Peoria, one of 10 children of Mary (Reinel) and Bernard Hessling, four of whom ultimately entered the convent of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

She attended St. Joseph's School and Peoria High School before entering the candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Milwaukee in 1927. As a novice she was given the religious name Mary Bernita and professed her first vows in 1931. She professed her final vows in 1937.

Parish offices may forward death and wedding information using forms at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/contact-us>. You may also request announcement postcards by calling 815/399-4300, ext. 383. We encourage you to send the information as soon as you receive it. Thank you.

Sister Bernita is a 1954 graduate of what is today Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education.

Throughout her career Sister Bernita taught mostly first-graders, and her classes sometimes included as many as 60 students. She loved teaching and said that seeing her students learn to read was a great joy.

She taught in Catholic primary schools in Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois for nearly 50 years.

In the Rockford Diocese, she taught at St. Anne School in Amboy for four years before being named principal of the school and holding that post for three years (1968-71) and at St. Anne School in Dixon (1973-1978).

On retiring from teaching, she lived in Chicago, where she served her community as a driver for 15 years, then moved throughout the city until July 2013, when she moved to Resurrection Life Center. She remained active throughout her later years, crocheting and donating prayer shawls and other needlework even after her 100th birthday, and tending to her many plants.

Sister Bernita is survived by several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held for Sister Bernita on Monday, March 3, at Mater Christi Church in North Riverside. Burial was on March 4 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

in Alsip.

## Weddings

**AURORA—Annunciation BVM:** Katie Morgan and Stefan Koniarz, Feb. 15.

## Stewardship Moment

**Measurement:** "Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over shall they pour into the fold of your garment. For with what measure you measure, it shall be measured back to you." (Lk 6:3)

Courtesy of Parish Publications "Stewardship" newsletter

## Mass Meditation

**Sunday, March 9 (1st Lent):** What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship: Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us! (See Ps 51.)

Courtesy of Sharon Hueckel

## Life Moment

**Pray:** That this Lenten season may bring grace to our friends and relatives who no longer practice their faith, and that they may return.

Courtesy of [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 9, 2014  
Matthew 4:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: 40 days in the desert. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BY THE SPIRIT	BE TEMPTED	DEVIL
HE FASTED	TEMPTER	THESE STONES
BREAD	NOT LIVE	ALONE
MOUTH	HOLY CITY	TEMPLE
COMMAND	ANGELS	DASH
A STONE	MOUNTAIN	KINGDOMS
WORSHIP ME	SATAN	SERVE

### DESERT TIMES

A B Y T H E S P I R I T  
L J O Y T I C Y L O H E  
L E D N A M M O C E D M  
W N D E V I L S S D H P  
O O A S T O N E D E S L  
R L W K A P S R M T A E  
S A T A N T M V O S D V  
H N A N O H C E U A A I  
I D A N G E L S T F E L  
P T E M P T E R H E R T  
M S M O D G N I K H B O  
E L A I M O U N T A I N

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If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual abuse by an employee or member of the clergy of the Rockford Diocese, report the matter to law enforcement in the county in which the conduct occurred and then please call the hot-line number: 815/293-7540.

Daily Scripture readings are published in the Prayer Request and Scripture Reading Calendar in *The Observer* in the last issue of the month, and are available on line at <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org> by clicking on Daily Scripture Readings for lists and podcasts.

## MCHENRY DEANERY NEWS



(Photo provided)

Second- and fifth-grade students, some of whom pose here, at St. Margaret Mary School in Algonquin worked together to perform 100 random acts of kindness in anticipation of the 100th day of school, Feb. 4, and Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The students recorded their acts of kindness on hearts that were to be hung outside both classrooms. The project also lent itself to many teaching moments about being kind to others randomly and quietly. They learned that these acts are best when done without attention being drawn to the person performing the action.



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**Principal Vacancy**

Annunciation Catholic School in Aurora, IL has an opening for its principal position for the 2014-15 school year. Annunciation is a Pre-K-8 elementary school of approximately 270 students located on the Northeast side of Aurora. Candidates must be practicing Catholics and possess an Illinois administrative license or be eligible for a license. Candidates with a master's degree and previous Catholic school administrative experience are preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, resume and credentials to:

**Michael Kagan**  
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
 Diocese of Rockford  
 P.O. Box 7044  
 555 Colman Center Dr.  
 Rockford, IL. 61125  
 mkagan@rockforddiocese.org

**Principal Vacancy**

St. Peter Catholic School in Aurora, IL has an opening for its principal position for the 2014-15 school year. St. Peter is a K-8 elementary school of approximately 140 students. Candidates must be practicing Catholics and possess an Illinois administrative license or be eligible for a license. Candidates with a master's degree and previous Catholic school administrative experience are preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, resume and credentials to:

**Michael Kagan**  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 Diocese of Rockford  
 P.O. Box 7044  
 555 Colman Center Dr.  
 Rockford, IL 61125  
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**Principal Vacancy**

St. James Catholic School in Belvidere, IL has an opening for a principal for the 2014-15 school year. St. James is a Pre-K-8 elementary school with an enrollment of approximately 150 students. Interested candidates must be practicing Catholics and possess a valid Illinois administrative license or be eligible for a license. Candidates with a master's degree and previous Catholic school administrative experience are preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, resume and credentials to:

**Michael Kagan**  
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
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 P.O. Box 7044  
 555 Colman Center Dr.  
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**Principal Vacancy**

St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Cary, IL has an opening for its principal position for the 2014-15 school year. St. Peter & Paul is a K – 8 elementary school of approximately 450 students located in McHenry County. Candidates must be practicing Catholics and possess an Illinois Administrative license or be eligible for a license. Candidates with a Master's degree and previous Catholic school administrative experience are preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, resume and credentials to:

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## MEDIA/ARTS

40



(Observer photo/www.the40film.com)

## God's Not Dead



(Observer photo/ http://godsnotdeadthemovie.com)

## Son of God



(CNS photo/Fox)

## Three Faith-Based Movies Debut in Diocese

Three movies that may be of interest to Catholic viewers are scheduled for release at theaters around the Rockford Diocese.

■ “Son of God,” the only big commercial release of the three, came out in theaters last weekend. (See Catholic News Service review below.)

Two others are scheduled for showings this month at selected theaters in the area.

■ “40,” a documentary about abortion in the United States, will be shown at 7 p.m., March 13, at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles.

The showing is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 12497 and Assembly 0188, and the St. Patrick Parish Pro-Life Committee of St. Charles.

According to material distributed by the sponsors, the documentary features “a wide array of pro-life activists, leaders and youth (who) counter the strongest arguments for the pro-choice position, such as when life begins and

‘it’s my body, my choice.’”

View both the film’s trailer and its March for Life segment at [www.the40film.com](http://www.the40film.com).

Donations will be accepted at the door, but seating is limited. Reservations may be made online at <http://signupschedule.com/the40filmatarcada> or by calling 773/835-0455.

■ “God’s Not Dead” is scheduled March 21 for one showing at Showplace 16 in Rockford and for multiple showings at Goodrich Showplace 16 in Batavia.

According to the film’s website, “Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper), finds his faith challenged on his first day of philosophy class by the dogmatic and argumentative Professor Radisson (Kevin Sorbo).” Wheaton’s response to the challenge goes beyond a college paper to a call for action.

Tickets for both theaters are available through the website <http://godsnotdeadthemovie.com>.

— Sharon Boehlefeld

## On TV

Broadcast times may vary; check local listings.

“Saint Frances of Rome” — March 9, 10-11 p.m. (EWTN): A look at the life of St. Frances of Rome (1384-1440), who, despite her forced marriage at

age 12, a difficult relationship with her husband and her family’s political conflicts, contributed generously to the Eternal City’s poor and to the church. (TV-G)

“A Hand of Peace: Pope Pius

XII and the Holocaust” — March 13, 9-10 p.m. (EWTN): This documentary, featuring interviews with David Novak, Ron Rychlak and others, combats misinformation about Pope Pius XII’s actions during World War II, presenting evi-

dence that the pontiff did much to help Jews. (TV-G)

“Haydn’s ‘The Seven Last Words of Christ.’” — March 16, 12:30-1:30 p.m. (EWTN): The Ottawa Chamber Music Society performs Joseph

Haydn’s music about the final seven words Christ uttered as he was crucified. As a narrator explains, this was Haydn’s attempt to express these moments of the passion instrumentally. (TV-G)

## At the Movies

**A-III PG-13** **Non-Stop** (Universal) A troubled air marshal (Liam Neeson) with a drinking problem finds himself bewildered when an anonymous murderer aboard the transatlantic flight he’s been assigned to protect succeeds in making it appear as though he is the one felling passengers. He enlists the help of a newfound acquaintance (Julianne Moore), the traveler in the seat next to his, as well as that of a veteran stewardess (Michelle Dockery) who is a longtime friend. But mutual mistrust hampers

the trio’s efforts to identify and stop the perpetrator. The rapid pace and frequent plot twists of director Jaume Collet-Serra’s thriller divert attention from its improbabilities. Though the protagonist’s habit of severely smacking down all who get in his way — together with a bit of risqué humor — sets this popcorn movie off limits for kids, most grownups will likely handle such turbulence without much difficulty. **THIS FILM CONTAINS** mostly bloodless violence, nongraphic sexual activity, adult references, profanity, the F-word, crude and crass terms.

**A-III PG-13** **Pompeii** (TriStar) The cataclysmic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. is the backdrop for this swords-and-sandals tale of forbidden love, revenge, and a whole lotta lava, directed by Paul W.S. Anderson. In the fabled Italian town on the Bay of Naples, a slave-turned-gladiator (Kit Harington) falls for the daughter (Emily Browning) of a wealthy merchant (Jared Harris). As he fights for love and his freedom, he befriends a veteran of the arena (Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje) and seeks vengeance on the Roman senator (Kiefer Sutherland) who killed his parents and cast him into slavery. A climactic swordfight in the arena is interrupted when the volcano roars to life and all heck breaks loose. **THIS FILM CONTAINS** gory

violence and sexual images.

**A-III PG-13** **Son of God** (Fox) The life of Jesus (Diogo Morgado) is recounted by the aged, exiled St. John the Evangelist (Sebastian Knapp) in this reverent but uneven screen version of the Gospel story. While director Christopher Spencer’s portrayal of the passion, and the events leading up to it — with Judas (Joe Wredden), Caiaphas the high priest (Adrian Schiller) and Pontius Pilate (Greg Hicks) all assigned believable motives — is compelling, other aspects of his film range from moving to awkward. Catholic viewers will appreciate the unqualified acknowledgement of St. Peter (Darwin Shaw) as the leader of the Apostles as well as scenes highlighting Mary’s (Roma

Downey) closeness to her son. The first wide-release movie in nearly 50 years to focus on the Savior’s biography as a whole, this outgrowth of the popular History cable channel miniseries “The Bible” offers some solid catechesis and an easy, though sometimes oddly truncated, introduction to the Lord’s ministry, teaching, death and Resurrection. As such, it’s probably acceptable for older teens, despite an unflinching treatment of the Redeemer’s sufferings. **THIS FILM CONTAINS** strong gory violence.

**L PG-13** **3 Days to Kill** (Relativity) Director McG offsets a great deal of action mayhem with pro-marriage, family-friendly values in this story of a terminally ill CIA agent (Kevin Costner) whose efforts to reconcile with his estranged wife (Connie Nielsen) and teen daughter (Hailee Steinfeld) are complicated when another operative (Amber Heard) lures him back into the spy racket by offering him a potentially life-saving experimental medicine as his reward. Scenes of domestic life and the protagonist’s compassionate interaction with the African immigrants who have occupied his Paris apartment as squatters are interspersed with car chases, explosions, third-degree interrogation sessions and assassinations in an odd mix of genres suitable only for thick-skinned grownups. **THIS FILM CONTAINS** violence with gore, torture, nudity, images of decadent sensuality, profanity, rough and crude language.

— Catholic News Service

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