‘Crossing the U.P.’ to launch Year of Faith

BY LOREENE ZENO KOSKEY

In his column, Faith Matters, Bishop Alexander Sample reflects on the sanctity of human life in the second of four columns on being a faithful Catholic and good citizen.

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Edna Hocking of Gwinn, Michael Decet of Trenary named Catholic Service Award honorees for 2012

BY TERRI GDZINSKI

Edna Hocking of St. Anthony Parish in Gwinn and Michael Decet of St. Rita Parish in Trenary are recipients of the 2012 Legacy of Faith Catholic Service Award. Bishop Alexander K. Sample announced the recipients of the award, which annually recognizes members of the Diocese of Marquette for lifetime dedication and service to the Catholic Church.

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Holy Family fun

A good time was had by all as youth challenged clergy and religious to a kickball game in Gladstone.

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AWARDED - (Top photo) Edna Hocking is joined by her daughters, Linda (left) and Phyllis Hocking after receiving the Catholic Service Award from Bishop Alexander Sample. (Bottom photo) Mike Decet (front, center) receives the Catholic Service Award. His wife, Anna, and son, Michael are on either side of him. Back row (left to right) is his son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Carmon, Father Greg Heikkala, Father Jacek Wtyklo, pastor of St. Rita in Trenary, and Bishop Sample. Not pictured: The Decets’ daughter, Stephanie Decet, of Colorado. (Courtesy photos)
PASTORALLY SPEAKING

Bishop James
H. Garland

You have a standing invitation

You have a standing invitation
to taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Bishop James Garland

Mixed.” Our celebration of the Eucharist is aptly described as a sacred banquet. We are invited to share in God’s eternal life. Every Sunday we are invited to the supper of the Lamb!

The Second Vatican Council Fathers taught us that the Eucharistic Liturgy is the source and summit of our spiritual lives. They encouraged us, all of us to a full, conscious and active participation in this public worship. That frame of attitude takes deliberation and intent on our part to participate consciously in the mystery we are celebrating together. It is easy to simply say or sing the words without advertign to the meaning or the mystery they express. How might we improve our consciousness and participation in the celebration of the Eucharist?

As we shower and dress for Mass, then drive to Church, we might prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the sacred banquet. On entering the Church, the clear refreshing holy water makes us conscious of our baptism and the divine life we share with the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can make ourselves aware that we are in communion with the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who saved us by the Holy Cross. His sacrificial act is re-presented at the table of the Lord, at the altar we see before us. The crucifix brings these thoughts to our minds.

We see and greet our brothers and sisters in Christ. We call to mind the crosses they are carrying and bringing to prayer this Sunday. We are members of one body united in Christ Jesus and we need each other. Our presiding priest enters and the Eucharistic celebration begins. He invites us to be conscious of our relationship with the Lord, that we are sinners and therefore need his mercy and forgiveness. United with the angels in heaven, and our brothers and sisters present with us, we give glory to God in the highest. We then attend to the words of the opening prayer that calls us together in the presence of God.

Perhaps we have looked at the readings of the Liturgy of the Word before leaving home for Mass. But now we expand our consciousness and grasp of the word of God so it gives meaning for our lives. We hope that the presider’s homily will bring that word even closer to our faith experience and our need for inspiration and encouragement.

In response to God’s word we now profess our faith in union with our brothers and sisters here present and those who live throughout the world, the faith that has been professed for 2,000 years: “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.” We then have the opportunity to offer our time, talent and treasure to the Lord God, the giver of every good gift, to our parish community and to the world. In this way we act as responsible stewards of God’s gifts. We also place our lives on the altar with the gifts that are brought forth by the congregation.

Now we are prepared to lift our minds and hearts to the Lord. We join with the angels and saints in heaven and all the faithful on earth giving thanks and praise by singing “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Our priest prays the Eucharistic prayer in our name. The Holy Spirit is invoked and we attend to Jesus’ words, “Take this all of you, and eat it for this is my body! Take this all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood!” Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is truly present. This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. This we truly believe! He is now with us under the appearance of bread and wine as a person to be encountered in his glorified humanity.

Then we pray to the Lord for the living and deceased members of our family, our friends and the whole church. We pray in communion with all the saints on earth and in heaven. And we conclude this greatest prayer of the Church with a grand amen. Amen! Amen!

We next pray in the words that our Divine Savior gave us by forgiving and being forgiven and so prepare ourselves to receive the bread of life. While in communion with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we recognize that we are not simply an audience. While it is not always easy to participate in the liturgy fully, consciously and actively, we readily make a dedicated effort to enter into the depths of the mystery that we are celebrating.

We are blessed to be called to the supper of the Lamb! In Holy Communion we recognize that we are members of the Body of Christ. We are called to be instruments of His peace! We are called to continue His ministry on earth as other Christs! We are commissioned to bring His good news to the world and to glorify the Lord with our lives. May it be so!
Part 2 of 4: A consequential election

In this column, I continue the four-part series on how to exercise faithful Catholic citizenship in preparation for the November election. The last column focused attention on the important issues of social justice, the common good and the "preferential option for the poor.”

Now we turn to some of the other major issues to be considered as we approach the election booth. Respect for the sacredness of human life is surely at the top of the list of issues that must be considered, especially since it is so often under attack in what Blessed John Paul II referred to as the “culture of death.”

Where does our discussion of this issue begin? Actually, I think we should begin with the monumental teaching given to us by Blessed John Paul II that has come to be referred to as the “theology of the body.” God made human beings in his own image and likeness. The Book of Genesis also teaches us that He made them “male and female.”

In our very being, in our bodies themselves, God has written a beautiful and powerful language that is expressed in the act of sexual intimacy between a man and a woman joined in marriage. The differences between man and woman are evident and very real. Yet, at the same time they mutually complement one another, including sexually. This is part of our very psychological and physical nature as human beings, and is therefore part of what is known as the “natural law.”

What goes hand in hand with this beautiful design of God written in our very nature is the power to cooperate with Him in bringing new life into the world. Part of this “theology of the body” is that God uses man and woman, united in the marital bond and through the act of conjugal love, to create a new human life. This is very sacred indeed.

From the very moment of conception, a unique and irrereplaceable member of the human family comes into existence. This is simple science and is based on the genetically unique individuality of the human species that comes into existence when sperm and egg unite in the act of conception.

This unique human life comes from the union of man and woman in not just any act of sexual embrace, but from one that remains open to such new life. It is part of this language of the body, the very way we are made, that the conjugal act is both about united love and the power to bring forth new life. To separate the two, or to exclude the procreative power of the conjugal act through contraception, is to disfigure the very meaning of it as designed by our Creator.

In the sexual embrace, spousal love gives themselves completely to one another, including their fertility, holding nothing back from each other. To use contraception to avoid pregnancy is to violate the very language of married love that God himself has written in our nature, indeed in our very bodies. That is why the Church has always and everywhere taught that contraception is a grave moral evil and, if assented to willingly, a grave sin.

It should be pointed out that under specific circumstances, the use of hormone therapy for the treatment of real and serious medical conditions can be considered morally licit. However, it may never be used for the purposes or intention of contraception.

Every life is sacred. Planned or unplanned, each unique and irreplaceable individual must be profoundly respected and protected, regardless of cost, from conception to natural death. We must treat each human life from the moment of conception with the same dignity as we should any human person, young or old. That is why abortion is always morally and objectively wrong in every circumstance and under all conditions.

Some would try to make exceptions when it comes to the evil of abortion. Cases of rape, incest, or the life/health of the mother are commonly cited as exceptional circumstances that would justify taking the life of the unborn child. But no good intention or intended good result ever justifies doing something that is, in itself, morally wrong. The ends never justify the means. As horrific a choice as it might be, one may never directly take the life of one innocent human being to save another.

Even when a new life is conceived under tragic circumstances, it does not make that life any less human or any less worthy of our love, respect and protection than an unborn child that is planned and/or wanted. We do not give the unborn child his or her humanity and dignity, based on our judgment of the circumstances of his or her conception. A new human life has dignity and value simply because it is a unique human life created in God’s image and likeness.

As difficult and terrible as the circumstances might be, we need to show profound care and love for both mother and unborn child, providing practical help for pregnant women struggling to choose life. We must do everything we can to help alleviate the pain and suffering, while honoring the dignity of both human lives.

This beautiful design of God with regard to human life and marital love is a wonderful thing to behold and is indeed profoundly sacred and should be treated with the deepest respect. That is why any threats to human life or any efforts to force the Church, her institutions or individuals to violate the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the sexual intimacy in marriage must be opposed. This is absolutely “non-negotiable” when it comes to weighing the issues before us in any election cycle.

For additional reading, please see Blessed John Paul II’s Evangelium Vitae, Pope Paul VI’s Humanae Vitae, and visit www.foryourmarriage.org/the-theology-of-the-body-according-to-pope-john-paul-ii.
Catholic Missionary Overcomes Terrible Accident, Finds New Mission Helping Handicapped

When an oncoming car slammed into Grace Okalany in 1990, she had no idea God was using the event to make her a more effective disciple for his people.

In the moment of the accident, all she could think about was her pain.

Grace’s hip, pelvis and femur were severely broken. Doctors tried implanting an artificial hip, but her body rejected it. For three long years, she struggled through recovery and excruciating rehabilitation at a treatment center in Nairobi, Kenya.

To this day, she bears the physical burden of that accident — one leg is shorter than the other and she must use crutches to walk.

“I felt so weak,” Grace recalled. “I thought God had left me to die in the hospital.”

Grace returned to Uganda after her treatment was complete and there met Father John Ahimbisibwe, coordinator of Wisdom Training Center, an outreach run by the Montfort Fathers in western Uganda. The ministry is a vocational training center where handicapped youth living in poverty learn life-skills and income-generating careers like tailoring, shoe repair, and agriculture.

Fr. John convinced Grace to join his work — and she immediately saw how the car accident had uniquely prepared her for this special service at the center.

“Since I am handicapped myself, I can relate to the young adults; they open up to me,” Grace said. “I understand their frustrations, the discrimination they face, and their desire to succeed. Because I understand them, I can better help them.”

Advancing from volunteer to secretary to director, Grace works among the disabled every day, pouring her compassion and skills into helping them improve their lives. In Uganda and other poor countries, the disabled routinely experience discrimination and abuse. They are often denied the opportunity to attend school.

The 15 to 25-year-olds who come to Grace often can’t read or write and have been shunned by their families and society, but they all have a burning desire to learn, Grace said.

“I know God led me here to serve them,” Grace said. “I know he made me ‘one of them’ so I can advocate for them and help them understand they are worthy in his eyes.”

This approach appealed to Cross Catholic Outreach (formerly known as Cross International Catholic Outreach), a Florida-based charity that supports Catholic ministries overseas. Soon after discovering the outreach, Cross Catholic Outreach pledged to provide Grace with regular financial support — a huge blessing for her ministry as it sought stability and ways to increase its services to the poor.

With help from its charitable U.S. benefactors, Cross Catholic Outreach has now supported Wisdom Training Center for more than five years, providing them with workshop equipment, training materials, teachers’ salaries, food, and other operational assistance.

Jim Cavnar, the president of Cross Catholic Outreach believes even more can be done.

“The work of Grace and the Montfort Fathers is the kind of service that resonates with Catholics because it affirms that each person is eternally valuable in God’s eyes,” he said. “As more American Catholics become aware of what the Wisdom Training Center is doing, I believe their support will increase and the outreach will expand, not just here but everywhere the handicapped are struggling for respect and hope.”

“Supporting a project like Wisdom Training Center is a way for us as Catholics to say to a handicapped person, ‘You are loved by Christ. You are worthy, and we brothers and sisters in Christ are here for you,’” Cavnar added.

For Grace, knowing American Catholics are standing with her through Cross Catholic Outreach is an invaluable source of strength. It sparks a hope in her that radiates outward to the students, giving them greater self worth, energy and optimism.

“We are all one family in Christ,” Grace said. “The help we’ve received from our American ‘family’ through Cross Catholic Outreach is a blessing. I want to thank them for their support and prayers, because we couldn’t do any of this life-changing work without them.”

To support the worldwide outreachs of Cross Catholic Outreach, look for the ministry brochure enclosed in this issue of the paper or mail your donation to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00882, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558. All contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.

“Cross” Now Endorsed by More Than 50 Bishops, Archbishops

As Cross Catholic Outreach (formerly known as Cross International Catholic Outreach) continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S.

“We’ve received an impressive number of endorsements from American Bishops and Archbishops — 60 Catholic leaders at last count,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO). “They’re impressed by the fact that we’ve done outreaches in more than 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.”

Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis sent one of the more recent letters of encouragement, writing: “It is my hope that this ministry will continue to flourish and reach as many people as possible. I will inform the priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis of the important work that Cross Catholic Outreach does and elicit their prayerful and financial support for the service you provide to the less fortunate around the world.”

In addition to praising the work CCO accomplishes, many of the Bishops and Archbishops are also impressed by the unique collaborative relationship Cross Catholic Outreach has with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome. This allows the charity to participate in the mercy ministries of the Holy Father himself. In his praise of CCO, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati underscored this unique connection.

“Cross Catholic Outreach’s close collaboration with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum is a source of encouragement,” the Archbishop said.

“The Holy See has unique knowledge of local situations throughout the world through its papal representatives in nearly two hundred countries and through its communications with Bishops and others who care for the poor and needy in every corner of the world.”

CCO president, Jim Cavnar, explained the significance of this connection.

“Our collaboration with Cor Unum allows us to fund outreaches in virtually any area of the world and we have used that method in special cases — to help the victims of natural disasters, for example,” he said. “It only represents a small part of our overall ministry, but it can be a very important benefit in those situations.”
Christ’s Love for Blind, Handicapped Serves As Inspiration for Catholic Missions Helping the Poor

In the ninth chapter of the book of John, the Apostle describes Jesus giving a blind man sight to glorify God. In the story, John shows how faith and a simple dab of mud were used as instruments of a miracle — ultimately giving new hope to the handicapped man.

Even today, thousands of years later, we recognize this act as an amazing example of our Lord’s power and love.

When Sister Emma Kalombe looks to this story, she wishes she could, like Jesus, smear mud on the eyes of deaf/blind children to cure them. She and the other Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary achete to have their wards transformed.

Since she hasn’t been so blessed with a miracle, Sister Emma does what she can instead. She helps the children blossom and find hope in other ways.

“These children have something to offer that the world needs. We help them glorify God through their faith, joy and talents,” she said. “We work with them to bring those blessings out.”

This service is not without its tears, however. Many of the children have histories of past suffering that pierce the nun’s heart with grief.

Sr. Emma said this kind of neglect is sadly common for physically or mentally handicapped children in Africa and around the world. In many countries, including Malawi, disabled children are considered a curse, and parents prefer to hide them away than endure the social stigma of raising a “cursed” child.

“Some children couldn’t eat by themselves when we discovered them,” Sr. Emma said. “We showed them how to eat, how to wash their hands, how to hold a cup and how to go to the toilet.”

Worldwide, millions of handicapped children in developing countries live in the shadows like John, forced to the edges of humanity by social stigmas and, more often, extreme poverty.

Parents of disabled children in the developing world are too poor to properly care for them — when there’s barely enough food for the family to eat, much-needed physical therapy, special schools and doctor’s visits are out of the question.

“Physically and mentally handicapped children are largely ignored in many areas of the world,” said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (formerly known as Cross International Catholic Outreach), a ministry alleviating poverty among “the least of these.”

Sr. Emma uses touch to help blind/def children expand their sense of the world.

As an example of the good that can be done, Cavnar pointed to the story of Mishiinea Isorena, a 10-year-old girl with Down’s syndrome in the Philippines.

Mishiinea was taken in by a Cross Catholic Outreach-sponsored school when she was 5 years old. At the time, she couldn’t walk or talk. Her impoverished mother, Regina, was struggling to raise her in a shack within Manila’s worst slum neighborhood.

Today, thanks to free therapy provided by the Cross Catholic Outreach-funded school, Mishiinea is thriving. She loves to dance, sing, and help her mother around the house. No longer trapped in a terrible home, she has new opportunities and enjoys life. The school also provides food for the family.

“One day, Mishiinea will be capable of independence and the normal life of an adult,” Regina said proudly. “The school is giving her the tools and helping her achieve that confidence. She will not let others take advantage of her. The Lord has done this.”

Mishiinea is just one example of the many handicapped children who now live a better life because American Catholics ministered to her through Cross Catholic Outreach.

“As a Catholic ministry, we know the value of every human life. So do the Catholics who support us,” Cavnar said. “Working together, we want to help poor families see disabled children as a gift from God. We want to give those children an opportunity to succeed and experience God’s love — perhaps for the first time.”

For some of the ministries serving handicapped children, a significant portion of their budgets come through Cross Catholic Outreach. Such outreaches would either close or need to reduce their services drastically without that help.

“There really is a direct link between American Catholics and the success of the work being done. To put it simply — these outreaches wouldn’t be possible without outside support. Fortunately, American Catholics remain involved and their generosity is amazing, especially toward disabled children,” Cavnar said. “I’m confident my fellow Catholics will continue to see the eternal worth of the ‘least of these’ among us and keep supporting our work — the kind of work that touches children like John in Malawi.”

Because John’s parents have allowed him to live and study at Sister Emma’s ministry, the young boy’s life has taken a remarkable turn from its difficult start. Where there was darkness, there is now light. Where there was despair, new hope is taking root. It is the kind of physical and spiritual transformation that only God can orchestrate.

“The Lord has brought us together to serve handicapped children and save them from the darkness,” Sr. Emma said. “He uses our outreach, a dedicated staff and financial support from America to achieve this. Praise God!”

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross Catholic Outreach to bring Christ’s mercy to the poorest of the poor.

To make a donation, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or mail a gift to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00892, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558.
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Thank you for your excellent Christian example.
Your parish family is very proud of you.
~ From Rev. John Boyle & the parish family of St. Anthony in Gwinn

Catholic Service Award
Congratulations to
Edna Hocking!

Endow Women’s Ministry Facilitator Training
Educatig on the Nature & Dignity of Women
The Family Life Office is sponsoring a facilitator-training
workshop for the Endow women’s ministry at
St. Peter Cathedral on Saturday, October 13th
from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ET.
The mission of this very exciting ministry is to educate
women toward a deeper, more profound understanding of
their God-given dignity and vocation as women! Endow
promises to be of great spiritual benefit not only to the
women who participate in it but their families, parishes and
communities, too. For registration and fee information
please contact the Family Life Office at 1-800-562-9745,
extension 178 or cjenkins@dioceseofmarquette.org

Shoulde t o Shoulder - Franciscan Sisters Margey Schmelzle (left) and Lois Risch entertain visitors to an open house in Sister Lois' honor. (John Fee photo)

Parkinson’s description, calling
Sister Lois a “mainstay for us.” He
said he especially enjoyed her
weekly Scripture studies of the
Sunday Mass readings and
described her as “very patient with us and very hardworking.”

Stetson’s wife, Bonnie, simply
said, “I love her.” She also pointed
out that Sister Lois is “a real person.
What you see is what you get.”
Sister Lois said she has enjoyed
her work as a pastoral coordinator.
“The people are wonderful to work
with,” she said. She started working in this ministry in 1994 in DeTour
and Drummond Island. Prior to
that, she was a principal and
teacher.

One of the highlights of her
work in Champion and Republic,
Sister Lois said, was growing the
Scripture study program, which she
started with 10 people and grew to
50 participants.

She said she also enjoyed the
religious education program for
youth. One big disappointment was
when parents would let their chil-
dren drop out after Confirmation,
especially when Confirmation was
received at a young age. “Just
because they’re confirmed, they’re
not graduated in learning about
their faith,” she said.

Another ministry close to her
heart was visiting people in their
homes when they were sick, and
taking Holy Communion to the
homebound. She said she also
enjoyed preparing people for the
sacraments, including the Anointment
of the Sick. She said she would tell
people who thought of this as a final
sacrament, “You’re not going to die,
but asking God for strength.”

Sister Lois said she also enjoyed
diocesan work and appreciated
being included in committees. She
noted she liked the challenge and
“you had to be up on your thinking.”

Now Sister Lois is returning to
her order’s motherhouse in
Manitowoc, Wis. to recuperate after
difficult health issues. But that’s not
the end of her plans. After regaining
strength, she wants to “ask the
house, ‘where are the needs?’”

“There is always something for
you to do,” Sister Lois said.

Hugs - Sister Lois Risch, OSF receives a hug from one of her young parishioners at an open house in Republic. (John Fee photo)

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Caring
Dana Richards, director of volunteer operations (left) and René Blanchard, volunteer, look over baby clothes at the grand opening of Care Clinic’s new location at K.I. Sawyer in Gwinn on Sept 6. The clinic offers pregnancy testing, educational classes on parenting and life skills, and the family resource closet, which provides donated baby items to expectant and new parents. The K.I. Sawyer office, located at 301 Explorer in the Gwinn Sawyer Medical Center, is open every Thursday from noon to 4 pm.

Gianna Jessen, whose life story inspired the movie, “October Baby,” will be the guest speaker at Care Clinic’s annual fundraising dinner, “Every Life is Beautiful,” on Oct 4. For more information about Care Clinic’s K.I. Sawyer and Marquette (1213 North 3rd Street) locations, or about the annual dinner, call the clinic at (906) 228-2273. (Terri Gadzinski photo)

Released in 1946, ‘By Cross and Anchor’ available again to tell the story of Venerable Bishop Baraga

A special attraction has arrived just in time for Baraga Days, set for Sept. 22-23 in Marquette. “By Cross and Anchor – The story of Frederic Baraga on Lake Superior,” a long out-of-print narrative biography of the first bishop of Marquette, has been recently re-issued and will be available for purchase.

“By Cross and Anchor” is not only historically accurate, it’s a riveting read,” said Father Ben Paris, executive director of the Bishop Baraga Association.

The timing of the release coincides perfectly with the Baraga Days’ public celebration of Bishop Baraga having been declared “venerable” by Pope Benedict XVI on May 10.

“By Cross and Anchor,” written by James K. Jamison, was first published in 1946.

“The re-printing of this historical gem will introduce new generations of readers to Bishop Frederic Baraga, the legendary Snowshoe Priest...” said Larry Chabot, parishioner at St. Christopher Parish in Marquette and author of “The U.P. Goes to War.”

The Snowshoe Priest was the perfect name for Rev. Frederic Baraga. As he carried out crucial missionary work with the Chippewa Indians on the Lake Superior shore, he did not let heavy winter snows impede his work. Each winter he trekked hundreds of miles on snowshoes to bring assistance, comfort and blessings to tribal members in remote villages.

Ordained a priest in his native Slovenia, Bishop Baraga felt called to minister to American Indians in the U.S. In 1830, against the advice of family and clergy friends, he left his comfortable home and departed for the New World into an uncertain and likely perilous future. For 35 years he ministered along the shores of Lake Superior, establishing missions in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

“The narrative (in ‘By Cross and Anchor’) of Frederic Baraga’s mission is essentially the narrative of a struggle – long, intense, unremitting – out of which a man emerges to victory,” said author James K. Jamison in the book’s foreword.

For a complete schedule of Baraga Days events, visit the website at www.bishopbaraga.org. For additional information or to purchase the book, call the Bishop Baraga Association at (906) 227-9117. You may also contact the publisher, Jerry Harju, at (906) 226-3984.

Sacraments 2012

FIRST COMMUNION - The First Communion class at Holy Name of Mary Proto-Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie were Magdalene Bauer, Landon Bosley, Jean-Pierre Broz, Randi Bumstead, Delania Forrest, Dominic Haller, Audrey Jones, Sebastian Lavey, Abigail McKerchie, Maggie Mathews, Alex Mayer, Joelle Mayer, Madison Mayer, Elizabeth Ohman, Elyza Rodriguez, Kolbe Max Swan son and Tessa Woolever. (Courtesy photo)

Congratulations Mike Decet on being awarded the Legacy of Faith Catholic Service Award.

Thank you for all of your tireless work, Mike!
-From Father Jacek and The St. Rita Parish Family

Find full issues of The U.P. Catholic online at www.upcatholic.org
Brother Albert
Anton Bracket

WAKEFIELD, Mich. — Brother Albert Anton Bracket, 85, died August 24, 2012 at the New Melleray Abbey monastery infirmary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was the brother of Father Louis Bracket, a senior priest in the Diocese of Marquette.

Albert Bracket served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Stationed in Japan after the war, he walked up a hill to survey the city of Nagasaki. “The sight I saw changed my whole life,” he would later say.


While a monk at New Melleray, Brother Al became a licensed plumber and served the community in this capacity. He installed new boilers in the 1950s and helped install a 1,500-foot-deep well, which he maintained for many years.

According to Father Louis, his brother experienced a crisis in his vocation in the early 1960s and asked to be dispensed from his vows. He left on April 27, 1963. He met Armella “Bobbie” Kluck and they married two years later.

Following her death in 1991, Brother Al asked permission to return and re-entered the monastery on April 4, 1993, and made his solemn profession on Nov. 1, 1997. He was preceded in death by his parents. In addition to Father Louis Bracket, Brother Al is survived by two sisters, Virginia Coolidge and Rita Meir; two additional brothers, John David Bracket and Jim Bracket; many nieces and nephews, and his community at New Melleray Abbey.

Neil R. Carlson
ESCANABA — Neil R. Carlson, 75, of Escanaba, died July 30, 2012, at his home following a lengthy illness. He was a former president of the Catholic Social Services board of directors.

Neil was born in Escanaba on June 29, 1937, son of Arthur C. and Agnes E. (Larson) Carlson. He was a lifelong resident of Escanaba. He graduated from Escanaba High School in 1955. He studied at Michigan State University for two years. He served in the Navy from 1960 until 1962, and the Navy Reserves until 1966 when he was honorably discharged. In 1968, he graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in social work.

Neil married Charlene A. LaMarch on April 4, 1970 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

He was employed by the C. Reiss Coal Company sailing on the Great Lakes for two years. He later became a licensing consultant for the state of Michigan, retiring in 1997.

He was a member of St. Anne Parish where he served as a Eucharistic minister and homebound minister. He was a member of the American Legion Post 82, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Great Lakes Rod and Gun Club, member of Ducks Unlimited, Delta County Veterans Council, Marriage Encounter and the Delta County Victims Advocacy Program. He was also a shareholder in the Second Lake Farm.

Among his survivors are his wife, Charlene of Escanaba; four children, Jodi Carlson, Holly (Greg) Thomma, Art (Jessica) Carlson and Catherine Carlson, all of Escanaba; and a granddaughter, Sloane.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Neil R. Carlson was held on Aug. 6 at St. Anne Church with Rev. Fran DeGroot officiating. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Death:

ABRAMHAMSON, Gary, 61, St. Anne, Escanaba
ARCHAMBEAU, Daniel J., 77, St. Ann, Baraga
BARTOLAMEOLLI, Henry, 89, Immaculate Conception, Iron Mountain
BEAURIE, Thomas, 85, All Saints, Gladstone
BOBCANIK, Mary Agnes, 95, Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
CAMILLI, Alfred, 99, St. Michael, Marquette
CREDEN, Franklin C., 91, St. Francis de Sales, Manistique
GAUTHIER, Gerard W., 90, St. Francis de Sales, Manistique
HASTINGS, Charles Eugene, 67, Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
HEROLD, Don J., 72, Resurrection, Menominee
KOSLO, Helen Katherine, 104, Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
LESANDRINI, Anna Mae, 83, Immaculate Conception, Iron Mountain
LUNDELL, Rose Marie, 76, Immaculate Conception, Iron Mountain
MARELLI, Doris, 89, St. Barbara, Vulcan
MILKIEWICZ, CAFF, Jil, 51, St. Anne, Escanaba
NEFF, Amelia, 94, All Saints, Gladstone
OIE, Mary E., 88, Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
OTTO, Frances, 94, St. Agnes, Iron River
RADAKOVICE, Adele Mary Ann, 94, Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
RUSHAK, Helen, 100, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bark River
RULEFORD, Richard “Dick,” 88, Resurrection, Menominee
SANDS, Karen M., 61, Sacred Heart, L’Anse
SCHIAVO, Peter, 78, Guardian Angels, Crystal Falls
SPIAGARELI, Abraham, 84, Immaculate Conception, Iron Mountain
SUTRICK, Albert Louis, 88, Resurrection, Menominee
TAKALA, Victoria Madeline, 84, St. Sebastian, Bessemer
TANNER, Timothy “Buck,” 28, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bark River
TUBBS, Eva Launoz, 97, All Saints, Gladstone
VERNON, Jolly, 72, St. Joseph, Lake Linden
YANKOVIC, Walter J., 91, Resurrection, Hancock
ZATKIOZ, Theodore “Ted,” Resurrection, Menominee

WEDDINGS

BESSEMER, St. Sebastian: Allison Stefanik and Brandon Kupitz
CRYSTAL FALLS, Guardian Angels: Jessica Nylund and Daniel Surface

DEATHS/WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS

CATHOLIC CEMETERY
Holy Cross - Marquette
1400 Wright St.
Dean LaJoye 225-0191
Holy Cross - Escanaba
Hwy M-35
Dale Stannard 766-4685
We have Burial Lots, Mausoleum & Columbarium Niches

Catholic Cemetery
Holy Cross - Marquette
1400 Wright St.
Dean LaJoye 225-0191
Holy Cross - Escanaba
Hwy M-35
Dale Stannard 766-4685
We have Burial Lots, Mausoleum & Columbarium Niches

Space available.
Contact Deacon Steve 1-866-452-5112 or upc@new rr.com for details.
The making of a pilgrimage is the making of a pilgrim

A person embarks upon a pilgrimage for a spiritual purpose. It may be for renewal, for penance, for seeing more clearly the inner self or the resolution of a difficulty. The pilgrim travels light and as one goes along lets the unnecessary drop.

-Regis Walling

Enjoy the simple pleasures, tomorrow will take care of itself

Like a road construction crew, we alternated between standing and walking, and sitting and staring. I also took a bunch of pictures with my iPhone and tried out a panorama app.

We make a habit of taking the scenic route home from exotic places like the grocery store. We pick up fast food and eat dinner at the beach. We stop by church for a few minutes on occasion, especially the adoration chapel. None of these things have to take more than 30 minutes. Sometimes taking just an extra five minutes to drive down a different street can open a new world.

When I was younger, I wanted to do lots of things and have lots of stuff. As I’ve – let’s say – matured, I’ve learned that it’s relationships with people and with God that are truly fulfilling. Although I do have to admit I like my iPhone a lot.

It’s also true that I worry whether we’ll have a bailout on the highway, about our country’s future, and where the next financial curveball will come from.

But Matthew 6:31-34 tells us, “So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

Let’s encourage each other to prayfully put our trust in God, as he has all the answers and solutions to our problems. And don’t forget to enjoy the spectacular beauty that God surrounds us with here in the U.P., a true manifestation of his love.

Terry Austin
Ishpeming
Baraga house tour scheduled

The annual Bishop Baraga Days will be held in Marquette with tours and events that celebrate the life and ministry of the Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, first bishop of the Diocese of Marquette.

From 3 to 5 p.m. ET on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, the Baraga House at 615 Fourth Street in Marquette will be open for tours of the room where Bishop Baraga spent his last hours. The Baraga Association, 347 Rock St., will also host an open house during those hours for visitors to see artifacts from Venerable Bishop Baraga’s life.

Between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, as well as from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET on Monday, there will be guided visits to the Bishop Baraga Shrine and other locations from Baraga’s ministry in L’Anse, approximately one hour north of Marquette. The crypt beneath St. Peter Cathedral containing Venerable Frederic Baraga’s tomb is also open to visitors.

Bishop Sample to address Call to Holiness Conference

Bishop Alexander Sample will be a featured speaker at the 14th Call to Holiness Conference to be held Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception School, 29500 Westbrook Ave. in Warren, Mich.

The 50th anniversary of Vatican II is the conference’s topic. Other speakers include Dr. Monica Miller, Fathers John Trigilio, John Zuhlsdorf, Frank Phillips and Brian Harrison, along with Peggy Stanton and Louie Verrecchio.

Conference attendees are invited to a specially scheduled 6 p.m. Divine Liturgy at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church. Following the liturgy there will be a separately priced dinner with Father Zuhlsdorf speaking.

A youth conference for teens will also be held that day with most of the speakers from the main conference addressing the youth.

Additional information and online registration is available at the website www.CalltoHoliness.com or call (313) 451-4659 to request a brochure to be mailed to you.
Drummond Island, he will celebrate Mass at St. Florence Mission at 6 p.m. ET and then drive back to Marquette.

“What we’re doing is placing ourselves under the sign of the cross,” said Bishop Sample, explaining the significance of his pilgrimage. “The symbol of our faith is the cross.”

Since the trip from Ironwood to Drummond Island is a long one, it was suggested to the bishop that he consider using an airplane for that leg of the journey, an idea he quickly rejected. “I want to drive it. I want to travel the distance,” he emphasized. In addition, he encourages families, individuals and groups to follow him in a type of caravan for part of or the entire two-day journey. Details on the route will be announced in the Oct. 5 edition of The U.P. Catholic.

As he approaches each location, the bishop will carry the cross in procession to the church and would like people to gather and walk with him. The crosses will be hand-made by a local woodworker and planted for the year at the location of the Masses. Venerable Bishop Baraga was known for planting a cross upon the completion of a particularly difficult river crossing. In Old Testament times, the Israelites would build a pile of stones to mark a significant place they had visited.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Masses in Copper Harbor, Menominee, Ironwood and/or Drummond Island. However those who cannot be present can follow Bishop Sample’s updates throughout the trip on Twitter.com (@BishopSample) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/theupcatholic). “I want to do this so that everyone can plug in and be a part of it,” the bishop explained.

In addition to the four Masses on Oct. 20 and 21, the Diocese of Marquette will celebrate the Year of Faith in many different ways throughout the period, with initiatives being planned by the Diocesan Council for Promoting the New Evangelization that is composed of clergy, women religious and laypeople from throughout the U.P.

Bishop Sample is using the Year of Faith to prepare Catholics in the diocese for the New Evangelization, which will be launched at the conclusion of the Year of Faith in late 2013. The New Evangelization primarily focuses on evangelizing the baptized, especially those who have drifted away from the Church.

# CSA from P1

An Act of Contrition

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins,
because I dread the loss of heaven,
and the pains of hell;
but most of all because they offend Thee, my God,
Who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve,
with the help of Thy grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life.
Amen.

More prayers available online at: http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/
Congratulations to 

John Beaulieu 
on receiving the 2012 Alumni Evangelization Award from NET Ministries! 

This award recognizes the ongoing efforts of its alumni to engage the Church’s mission of evangelization.

You made us proud when you joined the NET Team in 1983 and you still make us proud in your position as Director of Youth and Young Adult Outreach at Franciscan University. 

May God continue to bless your Ministry!

From Fr. Frank Ricca & the Parish Family of St. Gregory in Newberry

Newberry native receives national recognition

After graduating from Tahquamenon Area Schools in 1983, John Beaulieu left behind his family and friends in Newberry to serve on a National Evangelization Team (NET) with other young Catholics aged 18 to 28, who shared the Gospel with young people and their families across the U.S.

Now he is enjoying recognition for his service as one of three 2012 recipients of an evangelization award from NET Ministries of West St. Paul, Minn. At its 30th anniversary celebration in May, NET unveiled the reestablishment of an annual alumni award to recognize the ongoing efforts of its alumni to engage the Church’s mission of evangelization.

Award recipients must have served NET Ministries a minimum of seven years ago, live an exemplary Catholic life, demonstrate an ongoing involvement in serving within the Church as a professional or volunteer, and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the mission of evangelization.

Beaulieu, the son of Charles and Barbara Beaulieu of Newberry, was an active member of St. Gregory Parish as a youth, serving as an altar server for many years and participating in the religious education program.

He went on two NET retreats in high school and a Discipleship Week. It was the Discipleship Week during reconciliation that left a “deep and profound” impression on his heart. Beaulieu then served with NET from 1983-1984 and 1986-1987.

A 1989 graduate of Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio, Beaulieu worked for 13 years as a youth minister. He is currently the director of Youth and Young Adult Outreach at Franciscan University, where he oversees the Steubenville youth conferences which impact 30,000 young Catholics every summer.

Beaulieu resides in Steubenville with his wife, Lisa, and their five children.

National Evangelization Teams continue to minister to the youth of the Diocese of Marquette.

SCORE! - A spirited game of kickball in Gladstone pitting the Holy Family Parish youth group against clergy and religious brought about some competitive fun. In the group photo, evidence of the competition can be seen in the dusty stain on Father Corey Litzner’s shirt from him sliding into first base.

Bottom left photo: Sister Nenita Leonardo runs with a smile in hopes of scoring a run. She works in pastoral care at the Bishop Noa Home in Escanaba.

Bottom right: Gabe Smith goes for the big kick.

(Photos courtesy of Steve and Kristy Benoit)