Local authors pen novel with pro-life message

BY CAROL HOLLENBECK

It came to her in a dream. Literally. Tracy Roberts of Iron Mountain awoke one morning from a particularly memorable dream. “I never dream like that,” she said. “It was so vivid, like watching a movie.”

Her mind kept returning to the dream, and she became convinced that this was a story that needed to be told. She discussed her conviction with her parish priest, Father Mike Woempner, and their deacon, Don Christy, as well as a psychiatrist. “This is of God,” Deacon Don told her. Both the psychiatrist and Father Mike assured her that God sometimes speaks to us through dreams.

With those assurances, Tracy resolved to put her dream into book form. But then she needed a writer. In only one of a series of amazing coincidences, she met her eventual co-author, Rob Plumley, who was an aspiring writer. “At the time, I had a manuscript completed, but the publishers I sent it to rejected it. I really wanted to have something published,” he said.

Tracy and Rob both attend St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford, and one day after Mass, they discussed the book. “The dream was the basic idea,” Tracy explained. “Rob and I talked. Then he started writing, filling in the details. When he gave me the first few pages, it was perfect!”

The pro-life novel, “Treasuring Grace,” tells the story of a woman who has a secret that she has kept for years. It describes how the secret affects her and her relationships. While there are subtle hints throughout the book, the ending revelation is still a shock.

Tracy has been deeply involved in the pro-life effort for several years. “I saw the Precious Feet pins,” she said. “I thought about them, and then, about six years ago, started Birthright, a pregnancy service in Iron Mountain.”

While Rob is not directly involved in pro-life activities, he is a supporter. “That was Tracy’s precondition for writing this book,” he said. “The author had to be passionate about life, as well as a writer.”

“My goal in writing the book is to open people to the truth, and open them to healing and forgiveness as well,” Tracy said.

“My purpose was to encourage people to avoid abortion and help them get beyond it if one had occurred,” Rob said. “The book talks about how trivially abortion can be treated, and how dramatic it becomes later on in life.”

See Novel on Page 20

Parishioner, priest receive Catholic Service Awards

BY TERRI GADZINSKI

Judy Bynoe of Mackinac Island and Rev. Louis Bracket of Wakefield have been selected as recipients of the 2011 Legacy of Faith Catholic Service Award, which recognizes lifetime dedication and service to the Catholic Church in the Upper Peninsula. Legacy of Faith (LOF) is the Endowment Foundation of the Diocese of Marquette.

Judy Bynoe is a long-time resident of Mackinac Island and a faithful member of St. Anne Catholic Church located on Mackinac Island. Bynoe has consistently been an active member of her parish, serving on many different councils and committees, including the liturgical committee and parish council. However, it is her devout and meticulous ministry as a volunteer sacristan that stands out as most extraordinary in her lifetime of service to the Church.

A sacristan is charged with the care and maintenance of sacred vessels, vestments, altar linens, candles, and other liturgical items. Each week, Bynoe makes sure that the altar linens are freshly pressed and the appropriate color for the liturgical season, vessels are clean and polished, and candle holders are never empty. When she is occasionally unable to perform her sacristan duties, she trains others to assist during her absence. As one person wrote in support of her nomination, “She behind-the-scenes work goes without recognition but is very visible in the truly beautiful altar we behold each weekend.”

Many who wrote in support of Bynoe’s nomination for the award spoke of their respect for her. They commented on her inspiring service and leadership in the Church, her dedication to her faith, quiet service, welcoming personality, and constant readiness to help her community. Bynoe’s voluntary assistance is an asset to Mackinac Island.


See Awards on Page 7
St. Gregory Parish in Newberry commemorated its 125th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alexander K. Sample. Concelebrating the Mass were Father Francis Ricca, pastor of the parish, and Fathers Ted Brodeur, Timothy Hruska and Pawel Mecwel. Following the Mass, Dr. Jim Surrell donned a top hat and presented a lively historical slide show review of St. Gregory Parish and the Newberry area. (Terri Gadzinski photos)

St. Gregory Parish in Newberry commemorated its 125th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alexander K. Sample. Concelebrating the Mass were Father Francis Ricca, pastor of the parish, and Fathers Ted Brodeur, Timothy Hruska and Pawel Mecwel. Following the Mass, Dr. Jim Surrell donned a top hat and presented a lively historical slide show review of St. Gregory Parish and the Newberry area. (Terri Gadzinski photos)

St. Gregory Parish was the first parish in the diocese to have a permanent deacon. Dean Hermann was ordained on June 28, 1981 and served the parish until his retirement in 2000.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO THE ST. GREGORY PARISH FAMILY ON YOUR 125TH JUBILEE!

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CELEBRATE! - Parishioners and guests filled St. Gregory Church in Newberry to celebrate the parish’s 125th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 18. The anniversary Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alexander Sample. Pastor of St. Gregory Parish, Father Francis Ricca concelebrated the Mass along with Fathers Ted Brodeur, Timothy Hruska and Pawel Mecwel. Following the Mass, Dr. Jim Surrell donned a top hat and presented a lively historical slide show review of St. Gregory Parish and the Newberry area. (Terri Gadzinski photos)
propose four reasons, among others, for this shift.

First, the new translation will be a more accurate translation of the original Latin texts, many of which are ancient texts that contain deep spiritual and theological meanings. Some of these texts were "lost" or flattened in the current translation we have been using. These liturgical texts are strong theological expressions of what we believe as Catholics.

There is an important principle summed up in the Latin phrase, "lex orandi lex credendi." This means that the law of praying is the law of believing. In other words, what we pray in the liturgy is an expression of what we believe, and, at the same time, we are formed and catechized by the texts we pray in the liturgy. If there has been a weakening in the understanding of our faith in recent decades, this new translation will present an opportunity to recover some of this and deepen our faith.

Secondly, the new translation will recover many important scriptural references that were simply not translated in the current Missal we have been using. These scriptural texts and references are from both the Old and the New Testament, and their recovery will greatly enhance our worship and unite us more closely to the Word of God in our common prayer. Also, references from the writings of the Fathers of the Church which were lost will be recovered.

Thirdly, the new translation which we will soon begin using is regarded as a more beautiful, artistic, poetic, elegant and thoughtful expression of the English language. It will take some getting used to, but in the end we will have a more dignified liturgical expression of our faith to inspire us.

Fourth, the new translation will clearly be a more reverent and "elevated" style of prayer that is proper and fitting when it comes to the worship of Almighty God. No longer will we use a style of language that is more commonplace and colloquial, i.e. in the style of everyday conversation. When it comes to divine worship, we will use an expression of our language which gives proper honor and adoration to God and recognizes our humble position as those created by Him and redeemed through the Blood of His Son.

To learn more, please visit our website established to help prepare for the new translation at www.obosov.org. Check out the other links provided there, including the excellent U.S. bishops’ website on this topic.
Twenty years ago my sister died of cancer. The physician treating her told her and her family that the disease was located in her larynx. The surgeon recommended a laryngectomy even though she would lose her natural speaking voice. Her husband and children waited at the hospital during the surgery. I arrived shortly after the surgeon explained to them the results. In removing the larynx, he found that the cancer had spread extensively and further surgery would not be helpful.

My sister and her husband sometime ago had decided they did not want their lives prolonged by artificial ventilation and tube feeding when death was imminent. I don’t know if they ever informed about ordinary and unusual procedures but they sensed that these procedures would be overly burdensome and not beneficial in preventing the dying process. Their intent, I believe, was not to cause death but to allow it to happen naturally.

When the family discussed what direction they would give to the doctors, the youngest daughter pleaded, “But we can’t let her starve to death!” Her common sense of what was morally good or bad prevailed. My sister spent her last weeks heavily medicated and mostly unconscious in a nursing home receiving artificial nutrition and hydration. Then her family doctor correctly recommended these procedures be discontinued, because her body could no longer metabolize the nutrition and the treatment was useless. She died soon afterwards.

Decisions of this nature are never easy for a family to make. Concern for the suffering of the patient and the burden on the family is a motivating factor for people who accept and promote physician-assisted suicide, usually called death with dignity. The states of Washington and Oregon have passed laws making such actions licit under civil law.

ed death moved the United States bishops to issue a statement on the matter in June of this year. The bishops acknowledge a person’s fear of pain and suffering in the dying process and of becoming a burden to others but uphold the value of human life.

It is difficult for physicians to predict when the patient will die. Secondly, often people do take their own lives when suffering gravely from a mental illness such as clinical depression, an illness that is not life threatening. The U.S. bishops argue, “One cannot uphold human freedom and dignity by devaluing human life. A choice to take one’s life is a supreme contradiction of freedom, a choice to eliminate all choices.”

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-U.S. Bishops

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Surprised by the journey, the song of faith

We greeted each other in the narthex a few months ago. As it so often does, our conversation turned to the faith.

Margaret told me she had never thought of faith as a kind of journey — until she met me. Her life as a cradle Catholic was steady. Unquestioned. Loved. Still, it simply was. More like a state of being rather than a journey.

But she said it’s different now. She senses that her faith has always been a journey whether she realized it or not. A journey has been taking place on a level just below her consciousness. And she suspects that it’s like that for other Catholics, too. Her parents. Her sister. The countless people who stop by the parish office to sign their children up for religion classes or the youth athletic programs or to learn about baptism preparation or marriage instruction. It’s even like that for those who are there to make final arrangements for a loved one. The faith that they’ve been living has been a journey. Each event has been a kind of mile marker. The sacraments have come to them at just the right moment, bringing just the right help for the journey.

It began when they were so young, they may not even remember it. Their parents carried them at first. Then those parents put their children on the path and took them by the hand. They walked together like that, perhaps for many years. Then, mom and dad let them run ahead. And their parents’ hearts were filled with great joy. They could entrust their grown children to the journey. It was a safe path in a world with so many unsafe paths.

“Maybe we’re all on a kind of journey,” Margaret said. Margaret sees it all. She’s the parish secretary. That day in the entrance of the church, we talked in similes and metaphors, and our conversation was poetry and prose all mixed together. We eventually got around to the subject of music. In addition to being our parish secretary, Margaret teaches piano. Music is her second language. As we talked, I realized that it was my turn to learn a new metaphor for this life of grace. Margaret’s song — her life — has been a lovely piece of music, soft and beautiful, mostly pianissimo, in steady 4/4 time.

In contrast, my journey started as a simple song. Like “Twinkle, Twinkle.” As for substance, it was mostly just a bare minimum theology. A tune that could be plunked out with one finger on a keyboard.

Jesus loves me, this I know.

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me.

I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.

The theology was about as complicated as my daughter’s first-year piano music.

But then, a dissonance interrupted everything, and all I wanted was some resolution. I wanted desperately to stop those notes that didn’t seem to go together. I wanted my simple “Twinkle, Twinkle” kind of faith once again. Instead, the music was loud and demanded my attention and cried out for chords that worked — a sound that made sense.

And then it came. The understanding and knowledge. Those beautiful gifts of the Holy Spirit. Right judgment. Awe. Reverence.

A complicated arrangement replaced the cacophony, and — for the first time — I experienced advanced dynamics that pulled at the soul and carried me higher. The music of faith transitioned into a movement of exquisite sweetness, made all the sweeter, because it followed the dark dissonance. The Climax. The Resolution. The moment when grace sings the melody and all instruments highlight her voice.

Faith is a journey. Grace is a song.

Whether we are aware of it or not.

Look for Denise Bossert’s monthly column on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofmarquette.org. Her column, “Catholic by Grace,” has appeared in 43 diocesan newspapers. She is a convert to the Catholic Church. Bossert lives in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle, Mo. Her blog may be found at www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.
Feeling a tinge of empathy for legendary Lombardi

My father once told me that the more we learn, the less we ultimately know.

That statement couldn’t be more accurate as I reflect on Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers. Is he the best coach in NFL history? I would say having his name on the Super Bowl trophy pretty much seals that argument.

Is he one of the finest motivators we’ve ever seen in sports? He gets my vote, hands down. His quotes on teamwork and winning are renowned and help personify him as truly one of the greatest ever.

Yet, the more I read about Coach Lombardi, the more I peer into his storied professional and personal life, the more I see hints of a determined and crazed football coach haunted by deep-seat-
ed loneliness many of us overlook.

Over the last three months, I’ve watched two pieces on Lombardi that got me thinking about him. First, HBO showed a terrific two-hour movie on his life, a flick that, hands down, is one of the best portrayals of Lombardi. Recently, I caught the play “Lombardi” at a local theater. Each time, I walked away with a tinge of sadness bellowing in my belly.

I feel a deep sense of empathy, because for all of his coaching exploits, for all of his abilities to motivate young men and make believers out of non-believers, I’m convinced Lombardi led a lonely existence. I don’t have concrete proof, but I’ve read and seen enough to form that opinion.

Driven to perfection, the staunch Catholic – who at one time aspired to be a priest – had three constants in his life: sports, family and religion. He forged an indomitable will to become a highly-respected and successful coach. Coaching WAS his life.

Because of that tenacious drive for excellence, Lombardi left “it” all on the field. Yet, despite a strong Christian upbringing, he was largely absent from home.

There’s no question he loved his family immensely. Yet, on Lombardi’s highway to success, the path led more to the football field than the family dinner table.

―Jim LaJoie

Do pro-life Christians care about children only before they are born?

I n a recent taping of ABC’s talk show “The View,” host Joy Behar took a verbal slap at pro-lifers. Behar exclaimed during the show: “There seems to be a war against children going on. Except when they’re in utero! Then everyone seems to care!”

Can’t we have a conversation about the war on children in our country? Most of us older than 25 would probably say that kids today have it a lot easier than we did. There are some Michigan statistics that show this to be true:

• A child is abused every 16 minutes;
• A child is killed by gunfire every three days;
• 22.5 percent of children in Michigan are poor;
• 247,891 children in our state are living in extreme poverty;
• 32,463 Michigan kids are victims of abuse and neglect;
• 17,723 children are in foster care in our state;
• Only 3,200 have been adopted from foster care.

From these statistics, you can see that our instincts were right – this is a tough time to grow up. Society seems to be failing the young people who most need protection. While we could use more of the column space on any of the above bullet points, let’s focus on the last two.

Why are children removed from their homes and their families and placed in foster care? Usually, an involuntary placement occurs when there is abuse or neglect of the child. The court will issue an order removing the child from the home and determining when reunification with their family can occur.

Foster care is a short-term placement where children can find safe haven from a chaotic and sometimes dangerous home life. It is also a time for parents to seek treatment for problems which prevent them from being the parents that their children need. The goal of foster care is reunification of children and parents, although sometimes this fails and the children are available for adoption. The age of children in foster care is between birth and 18. Occasionally, children are even placed in foster care right from the delivery room.

For children who are involuntarily removed from the home, the experience is traumatic. Sometimes police are involved and they may see their parents going to jail at the same time. Everything that is familiar to them is taken away and many times they are only allowed to throw some things in a garbage bag as they leave home. It is frightening for the children, and they need someone to step forward and be there for them.

Foster parents are special people who do step forward to help when little ones need love and compassion. They are married couples who have no children, older children, or children of their own still at home. They do not have any special degrees, although they can be licensed and trained through Catholic Social Services. They step forward and are blessed with wonderful gifts as they see the children grow, flourish, and come to life under their care.

Do you have this kind of love and compassion for kids in need? I know many who do and they do great work for the Lord and for the children. These people prove Joy Behar wrong. We do care for children after they are born! Contact Catholic Social Services of the Upper Peninsula for more information on how you can become a foster parent: visit www.cssup.org or call (906) 786-7212.

SALUTE TO WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Please consider placing an advertisement of gratitude for an individual Nun, Sister or Religious Order in our upcoming Salute to Women Religious issue.

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As part of its Physician Recruitment Program, Dickinson County Healthcare System is seeking the names and addresses of currently enrolled medical students who have roots here in God’s country... We are so proud of our young people for pursuing their dreams, and it is a double blessing when they decide to return home and benefit the people of their hometown with skills and knowledge that they have learned. If you have information that could help us bring our medical students back to practice, please contact:

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On target for a hard lesson

By Loreene Zeno Koskey

A flurry of activity is taking place in the diocese as Catholics prepare for the implementation of the new Roman Missal on Nov. 27, the First Sunday of Advent. Lay parish leaders are currently attending diocesan training sessions, pastors are holding educational forums for parishioners and choir directors are teaching the new musical Mass settings to the people in church.

Deacon Tom Foye of Marquette is leading the implementation effort in the diocese. He is conducting regional workshops throughout the U.P. to provide information and background on the new translation to lay parish leaders, so that they can help their parishioners better understand the changes.

One workshop has already been held in St. Ignace and the rest are coming up on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET: Oct. 8 at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette, Oct. 15 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Bark River and Oct. 22 at Holy Family Parish in Ontonagon.

The cost of the workshop is $15, which includes lunch. The registration form can be found at the diocesan website for this purpose, “One Banquet, One Sacrifice, One Voice,” (www.obosov.org). Deacon Foye conducted training sessions for the clergy in August and September.

The changes being made to the Mass require new musical Mass settings. In an effort to foster diocesan unity, Bishop Alexander Sample would like to begin with one common Mass setting that can be used by the parishes and missions, as well as for diocesan events. The musical setting chosen is Mass of the Resurrection by Randall DeBruyn, published by OCP. Once parishes and missions learn and use the Mass of the Resurrection, they are free to select any future Mass setting that they wish.

To help people become familiar with the revised translation of the prayers that are sung, Bishop Sample has given parish permission to gradually introduce the new musical Mass settings now. This variation to the implementation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, set to take place all at once on Nov. 27, was authorized by the President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, and adopted by the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship.

The chairperson of that committee, Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, announced that diocesan bishops may permit the gradual introduction of the new musical settings of the people’s parts of the Mass at the U.S. bishop’s spring assembly in June. This primarily affects the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy and the Memorial Acclamations. Any prayers from the new translation that are recited still have to wait for implementation on the First Sunday of Advent.

Carmelite Monastery of Holy Cross notes

Mother Maria of Jesus re-elected prioress

Mother Maria of Jesus was re-elected for a second term as prioress of the Monastery of the Holy Cross on July 26. Theiscalced community of cloistered and extern nuns is located in Iron Mountain. Bishop Alexander Sample celebrated the Mass of Saints Joachim and Anne and gave a required exhortation before the election. Fathers Ronald Browne and John Boyle acted as scrutators, ensuring the election followed the Code of Canon Law and the constitutions of the monastery.

Annual Silver Tea a success

TEA TIME - The annual Silver Tea, which raises funds for the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Iron Mountain, was held Sept. 17-18, and sponsored by St. Mary Parish in Norway and St. Barbara Parish in Vulcan. (Photo courtesy of Mike Richards)
Knights of Columbus celebrate 100 years’ service in Iron Mountain

By LARRY CHABOT

Historical reminders were everywhere as Iron Mountain area Knights of Columbus marked a century of service on Sept. 10 at St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish. Bishop Alexander Sample celebrated the Mass, followed by a wine and cheese social at the KC hall with an open microphone for commentary and a silent auction for charity. Grand Knight Mark Bolander welcomed the guests, and retired judge and Past Grand Knight Mike Kusz was emcee.

Byron Bolander cited advocate Gary Proudfoot for his “great organizing job. We worked over a year on this.” Gary contacted former grand knights and members for memories and photos. We had tables with things like ration books and war bonds from all the wars of the past century.” He said the council has preserved every ledger and set of minutes from day one.

Amid current projects are Tootsie Roll sales and other activities to benefit Bay Cliff Health Camp, a poker tournament to help disabled Knights and their families, and fundraisers for the Catholic school and the council’s four parishes.

Nationally, the KCs began in 1881; thirty years later Bishop Baraga Council 1585, with John Garvey as first grand knight, began meeting in the Izzo Building on Hughitt Street. Interim quarters included a mining company mansion and a tavern basement; their present quarters are at 525 W. Breitung Street in Kingsford. The four council parishes are Kingsford’s American Martyrs and St. Mary Queen of Peace, and Iron Mountain’s Immaculate Conception and the combined (since 1939) St. Mary and St. Joseph.

When the area enjoyed high employment — like Henry Ford’s 8,000 workers — there were 900 knights from nine communities in Michigan and Wisconsin. As these towns formed their own councils, Council 1585 began to shrink. The current roster is about 245.

“Our membership has great people keeping it going,” said Bolander. He and the council’s chaplain, Father Dan Zaloga, both cited Ralph Izzo, 91, who served as past grand knight for his “great organizational job.” He said a young Catholic man (since 1939) St. Mary and St. Joseph.

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The new translation of the Roman Missal
Changes to the people’s parts

Invitation to Prayer

Current
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

New
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Preface Dialogue

Current
Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

New
Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right and just.

Sanctus

Current
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

New
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith (formerly the Memorial Acclamation)

Current
Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
People:
A – Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

or B – Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

or C – When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

or D – Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.
You are the Savior of the World.

New
Priest: The mystery of faith.
People:
A – We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

or B – When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

or C – Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

Sign of Peace

Current
Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

New
Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And with your spirit.

Editor’s note: Roman Catholic Churches in the United States will begin using the new translation of the Roman Missal the first Sunday of Advent Nov. 27, 2011. These are examples of a few of the changes to be implemented. Watch future issues of The U.P. Catholic for more information or visit www.obosov.org.
Seven decades and still counting, Pecottes live life of love, faith

By Vickie Fee

FDR was inaugurated for a third term as president, the U.S. entered World War II, “Citizen Kane” was playing on the silver screen and a gallon of gas cost 12 cents.

The year was 1941, and Bob and Kay Pecotte were married in a nuptial Mass at St. Bruno Parish in Nadeau.

“I thought he was nice and I set out to catch him,” Kay said, smiling. “I had been asking different girlfriends about him, and he finally asked me to dance at a dance hall (near Stephenson).”

Not too long after that, Bob asked her to marry him. “Do you think you’d consider spending the rest of your life with me?” he said. Kay remembers thinking that was pretty romantic. She said ‘yes.’

They held their wedding reception in the same hall where they’d had their first dance. The only time the couple has been separated was while Bob served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Kay remembers that separation as the worst time of her life, worrying if her husband would make it home safely.

“I was pregnant with our second child when he went overseas,” she said. “I said lots and lots of prayers.”

The Pecottes, who are now parishioners at Holy Redeemer Parish in Menominee, raised three children, Bob, Linda and Joe, and put all of them through Catholic schools.

He worked 38 years at the Menominee Paper Company and she worked in the medical field for 25 years. For 20 years they spent winters in Pinellas Park, Fla.

These days Kay, who is 87, and Bob, who is 89, spend most of their time at home. Bob lost both his kidneys three years ago and must go for dialysis three times a week. His wife drives him there.

The pair is an inspiration to their family and friends and a witness to married love.

“They’re just a special couple... Their deep love and commitment to each other is really an inspiration to all of us.”

-Anne Pecotte

SEE PECOTTE ON PAGE 13

TOGETHER - Kay and Bob Pecotte pose for a photo at a family gathering celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. The pair was married on Sept. 27, 1941 at St. Bruno Parish in Nadeau. (Photo courtesy of Anne Pecotte)
The Golden Age

KIDNEY HEALTH

Blood Pressure.....
Know it and Control It!
Tarun Kaur, MD

Dr. Kaur Establishes Hypertension Clinic

High blood pressure, or Hypertension, has long been referred to as the Silent Killer because it generally has no signs or symptoms to warn you ... and if you have it, you are at risk for heart disease and stroke, the first and third leading causes of death in the United States. Uncontrolled high blood pressure also leads to kidney failure, which dramatically affects the long term quality of your life.

Properly controlled blood pressure has a top number less than 120 and a bottom number less than 80. Know your blood pressure, and seek medical attention if it is regularly higher than normal.

Dr. Kaur, a specialist in Kidney Health recently joined Dr. Marjorie Funtanilla in the Dickinson Internal Medicine / Nephrology Clinic. Dr. Kaur completed two years of fellowship training in Nephrology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and a three year residency program in Internal Medicine at Michigan State University in East Lansing. She obtained her medical degree in India. She has special expertise in the management of hypertension and is dedicated to helping her patients control their blood pressure.

One in three adults has high blood pressure – don’t be one of them. It is important to your long term health to Know It and Control It!

New patients welcome.
Self-referrals are accepted.

Dr. Tarun Kaur
Dickinson Medical Building
Suite 225
1711 S. Stephenson Avenue

DICKINSON CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

Be Heart Smart!
Ramon Ray G. Rayel, MD, FACC
Cardiologist

Be Aware of Swelling....Be Heart Smart!

One of the common signs of heart disease is swelling, known as leg edema. This condition is a leakage of fluid from the bloodstream into the surrounding tissues. Although there are other causes of edema, it may be the result of a heart that cannot pump effectively.

Inadequate heart pumping decreases the amount of blood flow to the kidneys. The kidneys respond by holding onto the fluid, which causes you to gradually accumulate extra fluid. You may retain as much as ten pounds before swelling in the legs is detected.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of both men and women – more than 2,600 Americans die of cardiovascular disease daily. Pay attention to the warning signs your body is giving you ... see a doctor if you are concerned about Swelling.

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Dickinson Cardiology Services
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• Getting worse
• Causing you anxiety
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Shades of Ireland

Father Eric Olson will be leading a tour to Ireland on April 17-26, 2012. Highlights are Dublin, Irish Evening, Kilkenny, Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle, Jaunting Car Ride, Ring of Kerry, Killarney, Farm visit, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway Castle Stay.

If you are interested and need more information, please contact Dee Dee Anderson at Passageways Travel at 789-0800. The cost is $3,229 each for double, $3,629 for single and $3,199 each for triple.
The elderly are a blessing

BY SISTER CONSTANCE CAROLYN VEIT, LSP

As the 20th century came to a close, the United Nations celebrated the International Year of Older Persons, heralding the vision of “A Society for All Ages.” The first years of the new millennium have been anything but that, with the abandonment of frail seniors during natural disasters from New Orleans to Japan, the legalization of assisted suicide in several U.S. states and foreign countries, and political rhetoric that seems to consider the growing population of seniors merely as a drain on our health care system and the federal budget. Is this the society for all ages we envisioned in 1999?

Rather than looking upon the growing numbers of older persons as a burden, Pope Benedict – like his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II – has called them a blessing for society. “Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it,” he affirmed in speaking to the elderly at St. Peter’s Residence in London last September. The Pope insisted that “the provision of care for the elderly should be considered not so much as an act of generosity but as the repayment of a debt of gratitude.”

The Pope’s words should give us pause. We might also recall a bit of Biblical wisdom: “With your whole heart honor your father; your mother’s birth pangs forget not,” Sirach tells us. “Remember, of these parents you were born; what can you give them for all they gave you?” (Sir 7:28). Sirach admonishes us, “My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, it will serve as a sin offering – it will take lasting root.” (Sir 3:12–14).

To realize all that we owe the elderly and to honor them as a blessing, perhaps we need to slow down a bit and look at each one as if they were our own parent or grandparent. Maybe we need to see ourselves in them – for we too will be old one day, if we are blessed to enjoy a long life. Perhaps what we really need to do is to look upon the elderly as Pope Benedict does – as persons imbued with inviolable dignity, and thus worthy of our respect and care, simply because...
Marriage: The later years

The later years includes the blissful “empty-nest” season of a marriage that can feel like a second honeymoon. Many couples welcome their new freedom, while others have a hard time letting go. Sometimes a couple who happily thought they were in the empty-nest stage are faced with a boomerang young adult who again needs their care, presence, home, and perhaps babysitting services. The later years can also bring major health issues and the gradual loss of abilities.

Second marriage couples enter the later years of their lives but it’s the early years of their marriage. Men and women who marry after a divorce or death of a spouse, or after waiting for the right person, experience in their later years some of the same adjustments of young marrieds. Issues of diminishing health, grief over peers dying, and significant blocks of togetherness time are common.

Thus, the wife who married her husband “for better or for worse, but not for lunch together!” becomes a poignant cliché.

How do couples re-negotiate their relationship to take into account their new freedom, increased time together, possibly decreased income, and fading health and energy? Some do it with grace because over the years they’ve learned the marital dance of flexibility and tolerance. Some complain a lot—about life, about each other, about the weather.

Some may want to complain but know that’s not very endearing. Yet they struggle with letting go of the old patterns and roles of their life together. For these couples, the desire to let go with grace may be enough motivation to:

• Attend a marriage enrichment program geared especially to older couples
• Explore new hobbies and interests together
• Volunteer with their church, community, or other good causes that would benefit from their experience
• Deepen their spirituality to help them deal with the losses and limitations of later life
• Forgive others’ faults and drop long-held grudges

This article is courtesy of www.ForYourMarriage.org, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

PECOTTE FROM P9

Bob has been airlifted to the hospital twice in the past three years. And Kay is always at his side.

“She just won’t go home,” Anne said. “When he’s in the hospital she stays beside him in the room. The hospital (staff) has even rolled a bed in for her to try to get her to rest,”

Anne said her mother-in-law had a difficult couple of months this summer after she fractured three small bones in her pelvis. The Pecottes’ daughter, Linda, stayed with them while Kay recovered.

Kay noted that their Catholic faith has been a constant source of strength and comfort for the couple through the years, especially in difficult times.

When a family member is able to stay with Bob, Kay enjoys the chance to go to Mass. Father Corey Litzner and Deacon Roland Chaltry regularly bring communion to their home.

“It’s wonderful (to receive the Eucharist),” said Kay. “They are so dedicated and we appreciate so much what they do for us.”

The Pecottes marked their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 27. The whole family—three kids, six grandkids and four great-grandkids and spouses—gathered at the couple’s home the preceding weekend for a family dinner.

“It was very special,” Anne said. “We wanted to make it easier for her, but she wanted to cook for all of us and have us at her house.”

So Kay cooked a big chicken and dressing dinner, and everybody came.

“It was absolutely wonderful,” Kay said. “Everybody was here, even our grandson from Orlando. I was worried we wouldn’t be able to get everyone in our house, but it went like clockwork.”

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS

Don’t forget to take The U.P. Catholic Newspaper with you when you fly off this year. Call Sheila at (906) 227-9131 or email swickenheise@dioceseofmarquette.org with your winter address and the dates you want the newspaper to be forwarded. We will send it to that address without any additional charge to you or your parish family. Have a safe trip and we’ll look forward to your return in the spring.
Tips to stay active all year long

A change in seasons is an excellent time to be creative about your exercise routine and try something new. There are many ways to be active throughout the year.

WINTER
- When your grandchildren visit, head outside to build a snowman together.
- Cold outdoor temperatures are an excellent time to take dance lessons or join a mall-walking group.

SPRING
- As the temperatures start to get warm, get your garden ready for spring and summer. The lifting and bending you do when gardening are great for strength and flexibility.
- A bike ride is a great way to enjoy the warmer temperatures.

SUMMER
- Swim laps or take a water aerobics class. These are both refreshing once the weather gets steamy.
- Walking in the mall is a cool way to beat the heat.

FALL
- Fall leaves provide great opportunities for physical activity.
- You can take long walks to see the beautiful fall colors.
- Once the leaves have fallen, raking is good exercise.
- As the weather begins to cool, join an indoor sports league, such as basketball, handball, or bowling.

Tips are courtesy of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health, http://go4life.niapublications.org/

Treat hypertension to defeat the ‘silent killer’

Aging has its challenges, such as an increase in the risk for illnesses. Among those is hypertension, or high blood pressure.

Hypertension also runs in families, according to Dr. Tarundeep Kaur. Being overweight or obese increases the likelihood of high blood pressure, because the more a person weighs, the more blood is needed to supply oxygen to tissues; the greater volume of blood circulation places greater pressure on the walls of veins and arteries. Physical inactivity raises blood pressure because inactive people tend to have higher heart rates. Smoking or chewing tobacco, as well as secondhand smoke, raises blood pressure immediately, and the chemicals in tobacco damages arterial walls. Too much salt and alcohol and too little potassium and vitamin D lead to high blood pressure. Finally, a high stress level is also a culprit.

“In my medical specialty, I too often see the end results of long-term uncontrolled hypertension, or high blood pressure,” commented Dr. Kaur, a kidney specialist on the Dickinson Medical Staff and practitioner in the Dickinson Internal Medicine/Nephrology clinic. “The long-term health effects of high blood pressure are devastating. It is a contributing factor to chronic kidney disease. It also leads to heart disease and stroke. The good news is that with a little education and attention, everyone can be aware of their blood pressure and control it if it is elevated.”

High blood pressure has long been referred to as the “Silent Killer,” because it generally has no signs or symptoms to warn you. Dr. Kaur advises that you need to get it checked regularly to know what your levels are.

When your doctor checks your blood pressure, he or she does so using a cuff that goes around your arm and is pumped full of air. Two measurements are taken and reported as “top and bottom numbers.” The top number, or systolic, measures the amount of pressure in your arteries as the heart pumps blood, and the lower number, or diastolic, is the amount of pressure in your arteries when your heart is at rest. Properly controlled blood pressure has a top number less than 120 and a bottom number less than 80. According to Dr. Kaur, you should know your blood pressure, and seek medical attention if it is regularly higher than normal.

Dr. Kaur completed two years of fellowship training in Nephrology at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and a three year residency program in Internal Medicine at Michigan State University in East Lansing. She obtained her medical degree in India. She has special expertise in the management of hypertension.
**BLESSING from p12**

They have been made in the image and likeness of God and are sustained by His Providence. “Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary,” Benedict said in his first homily as Pope and again to the elderly last September in London. “Life is a gift, at every stage from conception until natural death, and it is God’s alone to give and to take.”

This October American Catholics will once again observe Respect Life Month. When we think of pro-life activities, we naturally think of the unborn, and rightly so. But this year, we would do well to reflect on the elderly — the contributions they have made to our families and society, their wisdom and experience, the care and assistance they need and the respect they deserve as human persons created in God’s image. The U.S. bishops recently published a statement on assisted suicide entitled To Live Each Day with Dignity (available online at http://www.usccb.org/toliveeachday/). It is a valuable read for anyone who cares about the dignity of human life.

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we are committed to the accompaniment and care of the needy elderly, following the advice of our foundress, Saint Jeanne, who said, “Never forget that the poor are Our Lord … Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!” We are caregivers — not politicians or policy makers. But we do know that caring for the elderly poor is growing more difficult all the time because of funding cuts, a chronic shortage of qualified professional and para-professional caregivers, and the attitudes of a society becoming increasingly callous with regard to the sacredness of human life. During this Respect Life Month we invite you to pray for the triumph of the Culture of Life, to advocate for better financing of care for low-income seniors and better educational programs and benefits for caregivers, and simply to cherish the elders in your own family or community.

Sister Constance Carolyn Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States.

**A FEW FACTS**

- The Little Sisters of the Poor are a Roman Catholic congregation of women religious caring for the elderly poor in 31 countries around the world.
- The Congregation was founded by Saint Jeanne Jugan in Brittany, France, in 1839.
- The first American Little Sisters Home was established in Brooklyn, New York, in September, 1868.
- Today, there are over 2,500 Little Sisters serving 13,000 elderly residents in 195 homes worldwide.
- Saint Jeanne Jugan was known by the begging basket she used to collect alms for the poor. The Little Sisters continue the practice of begging as their primary means of fundraising.
- The Little Sisters keep a constant vigil with the dying, striving to assure that no one dies alone. A Little Sister is often the last person an elderly resident sees before meeting God face-to-face.
- In addition to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, the Little Sisters profess a fourth vow of hospitality, by which they promise God to devote their lives exclusively to the elderly poor.

"Every generation can learn from the experience and wisdom of the generation that preceded it."

-Pope Benedict XVI
How’s your Latin?

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Here’s a test of your knowledge of Latin. Below are class mottos from St. Lawrence High School Seminary (including the year of graduation) in Latin along with their English translations. You just have to match them up! Write the graduation date from the Latin motto next to the English translation you think is correct. We’ve got you started with one correct answer. When you’re finished, check your responses to the answers in the box below. No cheating! St. Lawrence High School Seminary located in Mt. Calvary, Wis. The translations are by Latin teacher David Gritt and provided courtesy of St. Lawrence High School Seminary.

1913 - Omnia Uni
1914 - Pro Deo et Patria
1917 - Procede Intermite
1918 - Duc in Altum
1921 - Vincit Qui Patitur
1923 - Non Sibi sed Alis
1924 - Excelsior
1925 - Pro Christo et Ecclesia
1926 - Peregrinari pro Christo
1929 - Caritas Christi Urget Nos
1930 - Soli Deo
1931 - Ad Destinatum
1935 - Non Sibi sed Omnibus
1941 - Fiat Voluntas Tua
1943 - Fortis in Fide
1948 - Corona per Crucem
1949 - Non M undo sed Caelo
1952 - Ministriere Non Ministriari
1953 - Caritate Christi Compulsi
1956 - Instaurare Omnia in Christo
1961 - Sine Me Nihil Potes Facere
1962 - Parva Bene Facere
1965 - Ad Jesum per Mariam
1966 - Cum Deo ad Finem

1924 - Higher
1925 - All Things For One
1926 - Driven By The Love Of Christ
1929 - For God And Country
1930 - For God Alone
1931 - Toward A Purpose
1935 - For Christ And Church
1941 - Put Out Into Deep Water
1943 - The Love Of Christ Urges Us
1948 - Toward A Purpose
1949 - Thy Will Be Done
1952 - To Serve Not To Be Served
1953 - Driven By The Love Of Christ
1956 - To Restore All Things In Christ
1961 - He Who Is Patient, Conquers
1962 - To Do Small Things Well
1965 - To Jesus Through Mary
1966 - With God To The End

The Answers:

1913 - Omnia Uni
All Things For One
1914 - Pro Deo et Patria
For God And Country
1917 - Procede Intermite
Onward Undismayed
1918 - Duc in Altum
Put Out Into Deep Water
1921 - Vincit Qui Patitur
He Who Is Patient, Conquers
1923 - Non Sibi sed Alis
Not For One’s Self But For Others
1924 - Excelsior
Higher
1926 - Peregrinari pro Christo
To Pilgrimage For Christ
1929 - Caritas Christi Urget Nos
The Love Of Christ Urges Us
1930 - Soli Deo
For God Alone
1935 - Non Sibi sed Omnibus
Not For Ourselves But For All
1941 - Fiat Voluntas Tua
Thy Will Be Done
1943 - Fortis in Fide
Strong In The Faith
1948 - Corona per Crucem
The Crown Through The Cross
1949 - Non M undo sed Caelo
Not For The World But For Heaven
1952 - Ministriere Non Ministriari
To Serve Not To Be Served
1953 - Caritate Christi Compulsi
Driven By The Love Of Christ
1956 - Instaurare Omnia in Christo
To Restore All Things In Christ
1961 - Sine Me Nihil Potes Facere
Without Me You Can Do Nothing
1962 - Parva Bene Facere
To Do Small Things Well
1965 - Ad Jesum per Mariam
To Jesus Through Mary
1966 - Cum Deo ad Finem
With God To The End
Raymond J. Sedlock

Raymond J. Sedlock, 84, of Gwinn passed away on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 at Marquette General Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

Ray was born Oct. 1, 1926 in Negaunee, the son of Joseph and Mae (Eisman) Sedlock Sr. He married Carol Iris Karbum on Nov. 18, 1950. I was the father of Joseph (Stephanie), Anne, and Emily (Bernie) Stiritz and Anne, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Joe and Millard, and Mary Frances (Bob) Anderson and numerous nieces and nephews.

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SATURDAY, OCT. 8
A Columbus Day dinner will be hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 9523 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary’s Parish Hall in Norland. The menu features spaghetti, meatballs, Italian sausage, salad, bread, beverages and desserts. The cost is $8 for adults, $4 for children 6 to 12, and free for those 5 and younger.

SUNDAY, OCT. 9
The tenth annual Fall Festival hosted by Menominee Catholic Central School and School Association and the Catholic Order of Foresters will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school gym. The event will provide fun for the whole family, including kids’ games and crafts, a bake sale, along with vendor and craft booths for early holiday shopping. Chili, hotdogs, cabbage rolls and beverages will be available for lunch. Pumpkins and cornstalks will also be available for purchase. For more information, call the school at (906) 863-3190.

A “feather bingo party” — with prizes including turkeys and/or chickens — will be held at Precious Blood Parish in Stephenson. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo begins at 6 p.m. The $2 entrance fee includes pie, beverage and a chance for door prizes.

MONDAY, OCT. 10
Shawl Angels will resume making prayer shawls for those who are ill. The group meets at 6 p.m. in the Father Pat Room at Resurrection Parish in Menominee. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet, the group will teach you. Donations of yarn, or money to buy yarn may be dropped off at the parish office.

TUESDAY, OCT. 11
Armata Bianca, the “White Army” weekly prayer group, will begin at Holy Redeemer Parish in Menominee. Open to everyone, but especially children, Armata Bianca will gather to pray for the worldwide Church at 4:30 p.m. for Mass, followed by adoration from 5 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15
Public Square Rosaries will be held in the Upper Peninsula.

Baraga: Beginning at noon. The rosary will be prayed at St. Ann Parish.

Houghton: Beginning at noon. The rosary will be held on the campus of Michigan Technological University in Houghton, next to the Admin Building.

Marquette: From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The group will meet in the gathering space at St. Peter Cathedral at 11:45 a.m. After walking to the corner of Front and Baraga streets across from the Marquette Food Co-Op, the program will begin at noon.

Menominee: Beginning at noon. The rosary will be prayed at the Menominee Catholic Central School.

Rapid River: Beginning at 3 p.m. The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed in the church garden at St. Charles Parish.

Seventh Annual Shawl Angel Dinner will be held at Holy Family Parish in Ishpeming. The cost of the dinner is $8 for adults, $4 for children 12 to 5 and free for those younger than 5.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 19
Surrendering the Secret, an eight-week study group to heal the heartbreak of abortion, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Care Clinic, 1213 N. Third St. in Marquette. All contact will be confidential. The program will encourage and support women who have endured the traumatic experience of abortion. For more information, contact Dana at the Care Clinic at 228-2273 or umatter@charter.net.

A fall luncheon will be hosted at the Father Callari Hall from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. by St. Barbara’s Women’s League in Vulcan. The menu features Italian chicken, polenta, fettuccini, vegetables, salads and desserts. The cost is $8 for adults, $3 for children 6 to 11, and free for those 5 and younger.

THURSDAY, OCT. 20
The first Focus on Life Benefit Dinner, hosted by Iron County Right to Life, will be held at the Circle Café Banquet Hall in Alpena, beginning at 6 p.m. Special guest speaker is Barbara Listing, president of Right to Life Michigan.

Seating is by reservation only. Tickets are $22 and reservations should be made by Oct. 10. For more information or reservations, contact Christina Velie at (906) 553-4899 or Yolie Buhler at (906) 265-2976.

SUNDAY, OCT. 23
The 20th annual Harvest Dinner

DIOCESAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All times are local

OCTOBER

7: Bishop’s Ambassadors’ Mass and Dinner, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn, Marquette

8: Regional Lay Ecclesial Minister workshop for implementation of the new Roman Missal, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

9: 150th Anniversary Mass, 11 a.m., St. Paul Parish, Negaunee

10: Diocesan School Council Meeting, 4-6 p.m., Diocesan Office Building, Marquette

13-15: Bi-Annual Deacon Conference, Holiday Inn, Marquette

14-16: St. Michael/St. Christopher-Marquette and Goezettville Area Parish Retreat, Marquette, Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden

15: Regional Lay Ecclesial Minister workshop for implementation of the new Roman Missal, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Bar Harbor

16: St. Vincent de Paul Society Mass and Annual Breakfast, 10:30 a.m., St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

20: Principals’ Meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Diocesan Office Building, Marquette

21-23: St. Louis the King-Harvey/St. Joseph Parish Retreat, Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden

22: Regional Lay Ecclesial Minister workshop for implementation of the new Roman Missal, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Holy Family Parish, Ontonagon

22: Propagation of the Faith Collection/World Mission Sunday

28-30: St. Joseph & St. Patrick/St. Mary Rockland Vicariate Parish Retreat, Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden

November

1: All Saints/holy day of obligation/diocesan offices closed

4-6: Youth Encounter Christ Weekend, Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden

5: See the See Junior High Youth Rally, St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette

6: 150th Anniversary Mass, 10 a.m., Resurrection Parish, Hancock

8: St. Joseph Association Board Meeting, 11 a.m., Bishop Baraga Room, Diocesan Office Building, Marquette

9: Diocesan Finance Council meeting, 11 a.m., Bishop Baraga Room, Diocesan Office Building, Marquette

11: Principals’ Meeting, 10 a.m.-p.m., Diocesan Office Building, Marquette

11-13: Wise Women’s Retreat, Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden

Required Virtus training for volunteers ongoing in diocese

New volunteers and employees who will be working with children or youth in our parishes, missions, and Catholic schools this year must attend a Protecting God’s Children Safe Environment Awareness session. Here is the upcoming schedule. Participants may register on-line through www.virtusonline.org by clicking on the yellow Registration link.

St. Joseph & St. Patrick Vicariate

St. Francis de Sales School, 2834 Central Avenue, Ishpeming

Duluth begins 40 Days for Life

A 40 Days for Life campaign has begun in Duluth, Minn. According to organizers, women from the Upper Peninsula as well as Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada, go to Duluth for abortions.

From Sept. 28 to Nov. 6, a prayerful vigil will be kept outside the Women’s Heath Center in the city. Along with the vigil, the campaign will feature prayer and fasting, and community outreach.

For assistance or for more information, contact Christine Morrison at (218) 624-7035 or Lori Westland at 40daysduluth@live.com or (218) 371-9157, or visit www.40daysforlife-duluth.com.
JUBILEES - Bishop Alexander Sample celebrated a Mass at St. Christopher Parish in Marquette honoring milestone jubilees for St. Paul de Chartres Sisters (from left) Nenita Leonardo (25 years) and Francis Mary Mortola (50 years). Sister Nenita, a nurse and Philippine native, teaches in Maryland after previously serving in Ireland and in a Haitian clinic. Sister Francis, a Philippine native whose family hid from the enemy during World War II, is the outreach director at Sawyer after a varied vocation, including pastoral coordinator at St. Christopher when Bishop Sample was pastor there. (Courtesy photo)

TO THE ALTAR - On June 5, 2011, Father Ben Hasse, then associate pastor at St. Michael Catholic Church, presented the Ad Altare Dei Religious Medal to Boy Scouts from Troop 302: Alec Boehmer, Jack Bowers, Isaac Hermann and Casey L’Huillier. Also recognized for their achievement of this prestigious medal on that day were two scouts from troop 309: Joseph Lawry and Philip Turausky. Lawry and Turausky were presented with their medals by Monsignor Michael Steber at St. Peter Cathedral on June 11. Ad Altare Dei is a Latin phrase meaning, “to the Altar of God.” It is from Psalm 43:4: “That I may come to the altar of God, to God, my joy, my delight. Then I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.” Father Ben was their counselor in this two-year, after-school program that helped encourage these young men in their Christian journey. (Courtesy photo)

The Serra Club of Escanaba inducted new officers for the 2011 – 2012 year. Father Francis DeGroot, new chaplain, took over the position held by Father Rick Courier for 11 years. Serran Jan Ostrander presented Father Courier a gift on behalf of the club for his dedicated service. Other officers are: Mary Lu Gaudette, president; Dorothy Kollman, secretary; Richard Ostrander, treasurer; Barb Van Ermen, vocation vice president; Bill Hubler, membership V.P.; Dave Schauf, program V.P.; Mary Gierke, communications V.P.; Pat Henderson and Marie Theoret, trustees. Also inducted as new members were Norma Cretens, JoAnn Peippo, Joan Paul, and Art LaFave.

The induction activities included a Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Escanaba on June 30, and a dinner. Father Courier celebrated the Mass and Fathers Gil Neurohr, Greg Heikkala and DeGroot concelebrated. At the dinner, Father Heikkala thanked the Serrans for their prayers and for fostering the vocations of young men and women to serve as priests and consecrated religious.

Individuals interested in learning more about Serra or becoming a member are welcome to contact Gaudette at (906) 428-3575, Hubler at (906) 786-0204 or Gierke at (906) 786-7053.

Prayer for the Unborn

Heavenly Father, you created us in your own image and likeness. You desire that not even the least among us should perish. In your love, protect those little ones whom you have given the gift of life.

Amen.
Delta County residents recognize the Right to Life

The book is purely fiction, and neither Rob nor Tracy based their characters on anyone they have met. But Tracy noted that stories she’s heard from women who came to Birthright gave her insights as she and Rob wrote “Treasuring Grace.”

“Abortion is accepted in a lot of areas,” Tracy said. “But often, deep inside your conscience, a part of you does feel guilt and pain.”

“It’s the path of our society,” Rob agrees. “We haven’t gone in a direction that nurtures life. Just look at the school shootings, bullying, kids who have no respect. A while ago, when baby Jessica fell down a well, the whole country was concerned. Yet she was only a few months old. It’s just too much to discount.

“I saw there and heard the story straightened out. It made me think there was a plan being carried out. But there were plenty of stumbling blocks that made us think it wasn’t God’s doing, too. Now, we want more people to know about it. I hope it touches thousands.”

The plan began to work soon after Tracy had her dream. She had decided it needed to be co-authored, but she didn’t know any writers. One day, Tracy was on her way with other women of her parish to a retreat at Marygrove. “I’m usually pretty private, but I told them about my dream and my hope to have it published,” she said. “I knew they’d pray about it at the retreat.”

One of the women in the car was Rob’s mother. She knew Rob was trying to get his manuscript published. In a misunderstanding, she told Rob that Tracy had had a book published and suggested he talk to Tracy about the process. Tracy and Rob met one day after Mass, straightened out the misunderstanding and met again a few days later.

“Things lined up after that,” Rob said. “I had just lost my job, so I had time to write. I started in the spring of 2009. I finished writing in August of 2009, just as I got an offer to go back to work.”

“I sent the manuscript out to different publishers,” Tracy continues. “But it wasn’t accepted. Then, in the summer of 2010, I felt I should go to a Bible study class. I was talking about the book to a woman I saw there and she asked me what I needed. I said, ‘A publisher.’ She said, ‘I have one for you.’ She introduced me to a man at the class. Once he heard the story and prayed about it, everything came together.”

“Treasuring Grace” was published in November 2010 by Healthy Life Press of Roseland, Fla. Reaction to the novel has been positive. Tracy and Rob say, it was nominated as Book of the Year for 2011 by the Christian Small Publishers Association, located in Charlotte, N.C., the association represents, promotes and strengthens small publishers in the Christian market.

Tracy and Rob are continuing to pursue the dream. “We want to make the story into a movie,” Rob said. “Now we need to find a producer.”

“I see it as a movie,” Tracy added. “The way it is written, a movie would portray it really well.”

“Treasuring Grace” is available at Sacred Heart Religious Goods, Marquette; Book World, Escanaba; Book World and The Holy Store, Iron Mountain; Bishop Baraga Shrine and Bookstore, L’Anse; the Mustard Seed in Manistique; and Amazon.com online. Signed copies are available for $15 from Rob Plumley, rplumley@chartermi.net.

Tracy Roberts lives with her husband, Doug, and four children, Tyler, Trevor, Renee and Grace, in Breitung Township near Iron Mountain. Rob Plumley and his wife, Linda, and son, Eddie, also reside in Breitung Township.