

CATHOLIC HERALD



▲ *The AIDS Orphan Sewing Project provides sewing machines to young women in Tanzania to learn a trade. See story on Page 10. (Submitted photo)*

Deacon Wives

A look at the unique role of spouses in the diaconate.

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Business Guide

Our 20-page Business Guide spotlights local firms.

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Saints, Sluggers and Speed: Holy Cow

This is a special time of the year for baseball fans. The month of July always features the All-Star Game, the meeting of the best players of American and National leagues in what sometimes is called the “Midsummer Classic.” For more than 50 years now, the fans of the Great American Pastime have been given the opportunity to select the members of the teams that are considered to be the elite of the sport who will participate in this contest.

Yet, this summer, I decided to try something different. Rather than cast my usual votes for the ballot of those who will take to the diamond in T-Mobile Park in Seattle, I have chosen to create a roster of the members of the Communion of Saints which I believe would comprise the finest team who could defeat the squad fielded by the Devil in the baseball game of life. Why not join me as I make my personal selections, and, by all means, feel free to complete your own ballot of favorite pious picks.

Catcher: The catcher is one of the most unsung heroes on a baseball team. Not only is a catcher expected to assume the humble task of signaling and receiving all pitches, both good and bad, there also is an expectation that the catcher serves much like a field commander who positions the other players on the ball diamond and galvanizes a united spirit. Some of the best catchers in the history of the game, like Johnny Bench, Carlton Fisk and Josh Gibson, often were compared to generals. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of catcher for the 14th-century saint from Siena, Catherine. St. Catherine of Siena was not afraid to signal popes and anti-popes and command other leaders in the Church to reunite in a Holy Communion following the Great Western Schism.

First Base: Those who play the position of first base often are known for two characteristics. For one, they often wield a powerful bat and drive in many



HERALD of HOPE

BISHOP JEFFREY R. HAINES

runs. Second, they often are large in size and stature because they are tasked with capturing all of the throws which seek to prevent batters from reaching base. They often serve as a noble target, like a lamp on a lampstand (Matthew 5:15-16), focusing on the importance of this position. Both Willie McCovey and Hank Greenberg stood 6 feet, 4 inches in regal splendor. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of first base for the leader of the Church in the Dark Ages, Pope Gregory. The title of “the Great” was bestowed upon Gregory for serving as the light which brought a saving light to the Dark Ages, a light greatly needed in our own day and time.

Second Base: While contemporary players who play second base often receive as much adulation and attention as other baseball stars, there was a time when their role was much more subtle. “Second sackers” usually were seasoned and crafty players whose placement, timing, team spirit and complimentary role enabled the bigger stars to play at an even greater level. The steady, quiet and clutch play of competitors like Nellie Fox and Red Schoendienst served loyally behind the scenes to elevate their teams to a championship level. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of second base for the 19th-century Carmelite of Lisieux, Therese of the Child Jesus. Her imperturbable, unflappable “little way of love” inspired not only the Carmel team but the

whole Church to do the “little things” with great love and thus with amazing sanctity and effectiveness.

Third Base: It is for good reason that the position of third base regularly is referred to as the “Hot Corner.” The hardest hit and fastest traveling batted balls speed like rockets toward those who assume this spot on the ball diamond. That is why the players who have excelled in this role also seem to be known for their daring, courage and feisty spirit. George Brett, Mike Schmidt and Ray Dandridge are three of the finest who patrolled the “Hot Corner,” daring those in the batter’s box to try to hit the ball past them and urging their own team to imitate their strength and resolve. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of third base for St. John Paul II, the gutsy and great pope who constantly encouraged the Church to “Be not afraid.” He dared all of us Catholic teammates to play the game of life not just in a holy way but a saintly manner.

Shortstop: The most difficult of all of the defensive positions in the infield is the shortstop. That is because the shortstop has the largest space to cover and the most challenging angles from which to throw the ball (e.g., deep in the hole behind second or third base). Some of the finest ballplayers to field this position have been Luis Aparicio, Ozzie Smith, Cal Ripken Jr. and Derek Jeter. The fluidity of their movement seems to allow them to cover so much ground that they field plays in a near miraculous manner. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of shortstop for St. Michael the Archangel. The name of Michael signifies “one who is like God,” and it is fitting that he is the one the Lord has designated throughout history to serve as a protector and defender whose saving intercession so often comes to our rescue.

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Luminous Mysteries to be Added to Marian Shrine

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, visitors to the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine in Milwaukee will be assisted in contemplating the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary by the addition of a dedicated monument to match the Glorious, Sorrowful and Joyful Mysteries.

Work has already begun on what will become the bronze panels depicting the Luminous Mysteries, which will be set in an edifice of limestone and located near the Glorious Mysteries.

The exact timeline of installation depends, however, on when the fundraising will be completed for construction of the monument and other related maintenance expenses at the shrine, said Archdiocese of Milwaukee Chief Financial Officer Chris Brown.

"I think it would be great if we could have this up by next spring, into the summer, before the Eucharistic Revival procession that comes through Milwaukee," said Brown. "Since one of the Luminous Mysteries is the Institution of the Eucharist, it would be a great time to have this unveiled."

This project was set in motion when Brown was approached by a parishioner at the Catholic Community of Waukesha who had recently received a bequest from the estate of a close friend, Mary Navin. He wanted the gift to be used for the addition of the Luminous Mysteries to the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine, said Brown.

"He came forward with this idea that he would pay for the production of the Luminous Mysteries," said Brown. "Those are the mysteries that Pope John Paul II instituted (in 2002), so they weren't there at the shrine as part of the original mysteries."



▲ Five stations with the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are being added to the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Marian Shrine on 68th Street, just north of I-94. (Submitted photo)

Brown enlisted the expertise of Fr. Anthony Brankin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and a renowned artist. Fr. Brankin, a friend and classmate of Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi, created the statue of Mary Mother of the Church that sits at the entrance to the archdiocesan Pastoral Center. When Fr. Brankin was in town for the dedication of the statue of Mary Mother of the Church, Brown took him to the shrine and asked if he would be willing to create the panels depicting the Luminous Mysteries.

While the initial donation covers the production of the bronze panels, Brown estimates that it will cost several hundred thousand dollars more to complete the limestone monument and other needed repairs to the shrine. The Batzner Family Charitable Trust has come forward to cover the cost of tuckpointing the monuments containing the other mysteries of the Rosary.

Jeff Nicholson, volunteer coordinator for the shrine, described this addition as a continuation of the improvements to the Marian Shrine that began in 2018. Those

improvements include benches, kneelers, LED lighting, power-washing and cleaning, statue repair, security cameras, birdhouse repair, pavers in front of the St. Joseph statue and the addition of an information kiosk with free items for the public, including Catholic books, Bibles and rosaries.

He called the addition of the Luminous Mysteries to the space a fitting one.

"Every single day there are people praying the Rosary at the shrine — people who come and visit on a regular basis as part of their routine," he said. "Since Mary promoted the saying of the Rosary at Fatima, it's fitting that we include the Luminous Mysteries."

Pope John Paul II proposed the inclusion of the Luminous Mysteries in 2002 with his apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, which also declared a Year of the Rosary.

"I believe ... that to bring out fully the Christological depth of the Rosary, it would be suitable to make an addition to the traditional pattern which, while

left to the freedom of individuals and communities, could broaden it to include the mysteries of Christ's public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion," wrote the pope. "In the course of those mysteries we contemplate important aspects of the person of Christ as the definitive revelation of God. ... This addition of these new mysteries, without prejudice to any essential aspect of the prayer's traditional format, is meant to give it fresh life and to enkindle renewed interest in the Rosary's place within Christian spirituality as a true doorway to the depths of the Heart of Christ, ocean of joy and of light, of suffering and of glory."

The Marian Shrine was built in 1947 in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, and has been owned by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee since the early 1980s, when it was handed over to its care by the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary. Nicholson and about 20 fellow volunteers operate under the direction of Dcn. Steve Pemper, who was appointed by the archbishop to oversee the shrine.

"In my mind, this is completing the mysteries at the shrine — bringing it up to date to where we are with the mysteries today," said Brown. "I've seen the work done and they're absolutely beautiful depictions of the mysteries. I think it just turned out fantastic. They are beautiful pieces of work."

Donations to support the shrine's fundraising efforts can be mailed to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, P.O. Box 070912, Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912, and clearly earmarked for the Luminous Mysteries Station Project at the Shrine (checks should be made out to Milwaukee Archdiocesan Marian Shrine). For other ways to support the project, Nicholson can be contacted at jeff.g.nicholson@gmail.com or 414-517-6915.

Fr. Restrepo Shares Photography and Life Lessons

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

By the very nature of his priesthood, Fr. José Mario Nieto Restrepo, associate pastor of four Racine parishes, deals with the divine and heavenly realm. He also has a photography hobby that seems to blend the ethereal into faith and life lessons.

Since the pandemic began in 2020, Fr. Restrepo has posted photos on Facebook he has taken of wildlife, or astrophotos consisting of various nebulae, planets and stars. He utilizes these opportunities to share the ways faith aligns with science. He eventually hopes to develop a virtual space that might be useful for those interested in integrating science with their faith journey.

Since he was a little boy, he was interested in astronomy and science. His dad was a mathematician and Fr. Restrepo embraced his love for science by majoring in engineering in college. Over time, he discovered photography was a great means to share his interests in the natural sciences and amalgamate them into discussions of faith.

“In terms of astrophotography, I find it especially exciting since a photo of a galaxy or nebula is a trip to the past,” he said. “All that light that can be gathered from a star, galaxy or nebula has been traveling for a long time and what we see is how it looked many years ago.”

A native of Cereté, Columbia, Fr. Restrepo was ordained May 17, 2014, in Milwaukee and has served in Racine since 2021.

Fr. Restrepo is the associate pastor at St. Patrick, St. Edward and St. Richard parishes. This summer, he received an additional assignment to serve Sacred Heart Parish as a shared associate pastor. He is a member of the Community of Saint Paul; its community house is in Racine, so he has been involved with the Racine community since 2009, when he came to study at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary.

While Fr. Restrepo’s photos appear to have been taken on a wildlife safari or by utilizing massive telescopes at an observatory, he snaps most of his wildlife photos in Wisconsin and he takes the astrophotos in his backyard with his telescope.

“Most of the wildlife pictures are from Lincoln and Colonial parks in Racine,” he said. “You would be



▲ Fr. José Mario Nieto Restrepo uses his photography skills to teach theological lessons. More examples of his work can be seen in the online version of this story at catholicerald.org. (Photo courtesy of Fr. José Mario Nieto Restrepo)

surprised by the variety of birds that migrate through Wisconsin and all the birds that stay during the winter. Racine has a great combination of being close to the lake and plenty of wooded areas around the Root River.”

In addition to his postings on Facebook, Fr. Restrepo also offers lectures and retreats that complement his work and he said that each has two main objectives. The first disseminates information about the natural world from where we all get to know creation.

“What is very important as a part of this is to create consciousness about the responsibility we have as stewards of creation. I often share posts with a picture of a bird and how light pollution or deforestation is impacting and reducing its population,” he said. “Pope Francis especially reminds us of this responsibility that we have in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si*’. And

not only that but acknowledging the responsibility we have also helps us understand how caring for the environment, nature and resources in general is indeed an act of social justice.”

According to Fr. Restrepo, the other objective is more devotional. He appreciates contemplation as a form of prayer, and he finds that others share a similar experience.

“Like in Psalm 19:1 ‘The heavens are recounting God’s glory, and the firmament is declaring the work of his hands,’” he explained. “When contemplating the stars, galaxies and nebulae, I can easily relate to the psalmist’s inspiration.”

Some believe integrating the Catholic faith and science is not compatible, but Fr. Restrepo disagrees. In the beginning, he thought some reconciliation was needed when dealing with the two, but he now realizes that is unnecessary.

“When we talk about reconciliation, we are talking about two opposites or at least two parts that need to give up something to create harmony. I now consider there to be integration,” he said. “We often have faith and science as opposites, or we just offer a contrast like they are independent or deal with unrelated issues, such as the famous sentence: science explains the how and faith the why.”

He explained integration is more of a dialogue that understands the contribution of each about the same issue and requires that we approach faith and science with humility and without fear.

“Integration also requires that we avoid the antagonizing or the use of one to prove/disprove the other and that we understand that the Church is not at war with the world,” said Fr. Restrepo. “*Gaudium et Spes* says that ‘if methodical investigation within every branch of learning is carried out in a genuinely scientific manner and in accord with moral norms, it never truly conflicts with faith, for earthly matters and the concerns of faith derive from the same God.’” (GS 36)

Fr. Restrepo hopes that through his photos, viewers will contemplate and appreciate creation.

“There is beauty in our world and the more we understand our responsibility toward it, the more we will enjoy and encounter God in the beauty of creation,” he said.

Deacon Wives Offer Family Perspective

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Nearly 60 years ago, Church Fathers at the Second Vatican Council restored the ancient office of the permanent diaconate, allowing the ordination of married men as permanent deacons in the Catholic Church. All these years later, deacons are now an integral part of contemporary parish life, serving as lifelines for many busy priests who often struggle to meet the diverse needs of their parishes.

Deacons can be married or single. Approximately 98 percent have spouses; their wives play a special and necessary role in this rapidly growing ministry.

Permanent deacons perform weddings, baptisms, house visits and funerals; they teach RCIA, hold bible studies and assist with marriage preparation. They go where needed and assist priests in comportsing the often overwhelming role of ministry to the body of Christ, while also serving their unique purpose and role in the life of the Church.

The intimacy derived from the marriage covenant between man and wife is so important the Church requires a wife's consent before her husband can be formed and ultimately ordained a permanent deacon.

Three women who are wives of deacons share their perspectives here.

Julie Van Zeeland, whose husband Dcn. John Van Zeeland was ordained in 2022 and serves as a deacon at the sister parishes of St. James, Mukwonago; St. Theresa, Eagle; and St. Peter, East Troy; recalled discussions with her husband before they began dating about his interest in the diaconate.

"I honestly don't remember having any reservations. He talked about how Dcn. Greg Price had encouraged him to be a deacon and that it was always at the back of his mind," Julie said. "I saw that he would be very good in this ministry, so in a way, I felt that when we became engaged, I was also signing up to journey down the road of possibilities of the diaconate."

Julie explained that she and her husband had the unique perspective of watching her brother and sister-in-law go through the formation process, so they had an idea of what to expect.

"During the last couple sessions of formation for the wives, they focused quite a bit on our role in keeping our husbands balanced," Julie said. "There were many



▲ Dcn. John and Julie Van Zeeland. (Submitted photo)

mentor sessions with deacon wives who spoke of this repeatedly, and I believe this is my primary role. I need to help the Church by being sure John is not overwhelmed so he can do his diaconate work to the best of his ability."

The formation was so helpful that Julie said she misses seeing the other deacon wives from her classes. They have gathered a few times and hope to do so again this summer.

"The wives are truly my sisters and my prayer warriors, and I love every one of them dearly," she said. "We have a Facebook page that we use to keep updated with each other."

The diaconate formation brought both Julie and Dcn. John closer to God, which brought them closer to their marriage vows and each other.

"We still have disagreements, but we also know that our bond is a true sacrament that cannot be broken by

human hands," Julie said. "They instruct us that John's ordination as a deacon is his second sacrament to our Marriage sacrament and should never jeopardize this first sacrament. One of my predecessor's wives even instructed our whole class that the men are 'our deacons first,' so knowing that we need to keep our marriage healthy for John to be more effective as a deacon keeps us more aware of our relationship and when it needs some TLC."

One of the greatest blessings of her husband being a deacon are the actual blessings, Julie said.

"When something important or difficult is happening for me at work, I can ask John for a blessing before heading out. When I purchase or make some religious item that I am giving away as a gift, I can ask John to bless it," she said. "The blessing I cherish the most is watching John when he is talking with someone and then he raises his hands as they bow their head and I see John give them a blessing, knowing that through the apostolic succession, John has just brought the Holy Spirit down to this person, helping them with whatever struggle they are currently going through. It touches my heart deeply every time I see it."

Through the Sacrament of Marriage, **Maria Kucharski** explained that God called her to be part of a diaconal couple. Maria's husband, Dcn. Jeffrey Kucharski, was ordained in 2022 and serves St. Dominic Parish in Brookfield.

"Throughout our formation, wives are reminded that ordination is a call for the husband, and our role after ordination is whatever we want it to be," she said. "For Jeff and I, we support our parish and the greater Catholic community in different ways. For married deacons and their wives, we are also disciples in the evangelization of the Sacrament of Marriage, and of a family striving to be a model of the Holy Family."

As deacon wives, Maria said they uniquely bring a Marian spirit to the Church, as do all women.

"I recall one of the Schoenstatt sisters reminding us that specifically, as deacon wives, we are the permanent companion to someone who serves the Lord and needs Mary by his side," she said, adding that there have been gifts and challenges being the wife of a deacon. "A few of the notable gifts are developing a stronger marital prayer life, growing in spiritual formation and developing a deeper relationship with Christ together."

Some may have concerns that having a husband who is a permanent deacon may take away from the domestic church, but Maria said it is just the opposite.

“Married deacons’ role as deacons, husbands and parents provides an entry point for their ministry. At our most recent post-ordination day of reflection in June, we were given an article about this exact subject. It stated that the deacon, his wife and his children support one another in their faith and grow together through the love they share,” she said. “Like the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the deacon and his wife take the lead in their family to love God and one another, serve the needy and respond to God’s call.”

Maria and Dcn. Jeff have experienced many blessings since his ordination, including the support and graciousness of their St. Dominic Parish family.

Mary Petrie, whose husband Dcn. Dennis Petrie was ordained in 2012, remembers Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi asking her if she was nervous at the Ordination Mass.

“It didn’t give me pause, as we had been through a lot,” she said. “I think what made a bigger impact on me was at our deacon retreat at the start of our formation year, I had to pledge to always uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church. At the time, that made an impression on me, and still does, and I was nervous.”

Dcn. Petrie serves St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Pewaukee and helps at Catholic Memorial High School, where Mary teaches.

The most difficult aspect of going through the formation and the only reservations Mary had were due to the ages of their four children.

“Leaving your children alone, all day, every other Saturday was rough. Our kids were in activities, and sometimes we missed their events because of Saturday class,” she said. “And there were a few times when the formation program conflicted with major family events that we ended up missing due to class requirements.”

However, watching her husband serve as a deacon provides an opportunity to serve as a visible witness to marriage and family as a part of the Church.

“Members of our community often remark that it is so neat to see us sit together at church or be involved together at Mass,” she said. “I think anytime we can live our marriage commitment publicly so others can witness it, is one of our most important roles.”

While the role of deacon can be demanding and time-consuming, Mary said the Sacrament of Matrimony is their first vocation.



▲ Dcn. Jeffrey and Maria Kucharski. (Submitted photo)

“Sometimes the demands of the diaconate have affected our family plans, but overall, it has strengthened our family and marriage,” she said. “I think sometimes before Dennis retired, parishioners didn’t realize he had a full-time job. And sometimes I think they forget he has a family and there are family obligations. Sometimes he just has to say no, which bothers him.”

One of the most unexpected blessings for Mary and Dcn. Dennis was in ministering to family and other relatives.

“Dennis has witnessed the marriage vows of our two youngest children, and he has baptized seven of our eight grandchildren. The joy he has gotten from these things is a wonderful gift from God,” she said. “A few times, he has given homilies at funerals or funeral services of our relatives. And while these are not happy occasions, he feels blessed to be a part of them.”



▲ Dcn. Dennis and Mary Petrie. (Submitted photo)

As a couple, Mary and Dcn. Dennis enjoy traveling north to their family cottage when they have some free time.

“Often Dennis will work on ‘deacon’ stuff, and I will be doing school work, but we are together without the usual ‘business’ being at home can generate,” she said. “Again, we highly value and guard our time together as a couple.”

Diaconate Informational Meetings Set

Do you know man — or are you married to one — who may be interested in becoming a deacon? One-hour informational sessions are set for 7 p.m. July 13 at St. John Paul II Parish – St. Alexander Site Hall, 1568 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee; and 11:15 a.m. Sunday, July 16, at Holy Apostles Church, 16000 W. National Ave., New Berlin.

A series of next-step discernment sessions will be held in the fall. Visit <https://www.archmil.org/offices/Diaconate.htm> for more information.

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The Good News

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www.archmil.org/Good-News

New Leadership Team Elected by Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

The congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi have elected a new leadership team.

The new members were installed in June and include Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, Director; Sr. Charlotte Roost, Vicar/Associate Director; and Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, Associate Director. They will serve a four-year term.

The installation took place during a Mass at St. Francis Convent in St. Francis that was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Richard J. Sklba of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The three sisters have all served previous terms as members of the leadership team.

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein most recently served as Director of the Office of Corporate Ministries. Born in Minneapolis, she professed vows as a sister of the congregation in 1968. She was an associate director on the leadership team from 1995-99. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Marquette University and a master's degree in Franciscan studies from St. Bonaventure University. She served the sisters as a registered nurse for many years, both at the health center at the motherhouse in St. Francis and at St. Coletta of Wisconsin in Jefferson. She was director of health care for the congregation from 1985-87. Sr. Joanne is also known for her work leading pilgrimages to Franciscan sites around the world.

Sr. Charlotte Roost most recently served the congregation as Director of Housing and Cars, and as liaison between the leadership team and the "Upholding the Vision" building project, which concluded with the 2019 opening of the Sisters' new motherhouse and retired living facility at St. Francis Convent. She was born in Morris, Illinois, and grew up in Cambridge. Sr. Charlotte professed vows in 1968 and was an associate director of the congregation from 1995 to 2003. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1972. She served as a pharmacist at the congregation's St. Ann Health Center from 1972-81, and 1982-84. In 1986, Sr. Charlotte earned a doctoral degree in pharmacy from the University of Utah. She practiced as a pharmacist in Birmingham, Alabama, and taught at Samford University in



▲ Bishop Emeritus Richard J. Sklba with the new Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Leadership Team, (from left) Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, Sr. Joanne Schatzlein and Sr. Charlotte Roost. (Submitted photo)

Homewood, Alabama, for four years. Sr. Charlotte also worked as a pharmacist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Hines, Illinois.

Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon most recently served as the director of operations for six Catholic parishes on Milwaukee's south side. She was born in Waukegan, Illinois, and professed vows in 1994. She was associate director of the congregation from 2015-19. Sr. Sylvia Anne is a former member of Sacre Coeur Catholic Church in Creve Coeur, Illinois. She earned an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University. Sr. Sylvia Anne served as director of administrative services at St. Mary's Parish in Elm Grove from 1994 to 2003, as director of

information services at Cardinal Stritch University from 2004-06, and was the school finance director at Blessed Savior School in Milwaukee from 2007-15.

In 1849, the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi was the first foundation of vowed Franciscan women to be established in the United States. Their motherhouse is located on the shores of Lake Michigan in St. Francis. The sisters sponsor 10 corporate ministries located in Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland and Massachusetts. Their ministries serve those with intellectual, emotional and physical disabilities, seniors in need of affordable housing, those living in poverty and the disenfranchised and neglected of society.

Sew Much Assistance for Orphaned Girls

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

If her eyes could talk, they would tell the myriad gruesome stories Sr. Stella Storch, a Sinsinawa Dominican, has heard throughout the past couple of decades about child trafficking and how she went about empowering teen girls whose parents died of AIDS.

For her upcoming 80th birthday, she wants to save more, one sewing machine at a time.

Sr. Stella lived and worked in Fond du Lac for the past 25 years, and had her first opportunity to visit Tanzania, East Africa, 20 years ago.

“This came about because in 1990 we had a woman named Sr. Helen, from Bukoba, Tanzania, who came to live with us in the Blessed Sacrament Convent in Madison for five years,” said Sr. Stella. “She got her MBA at Edgewood College and returned home. I wanted to meet her family and finally had the opportunity in 2000 when I finished a leadership team for the Sinsinawa Dominicans and had time before beginning a new job.”

Arriving in Bukoba, she met her friend, Sr. Helen, and her family, and learned of some of the work the sisters were doing in the community, including their work with AIDS orphans.

The young girls were born into extreme poverty and had no family or hope for their future. Sr. Stella learned how they were easy prey for child traffickers, who would kidnap, sell and abuse these girls.

Heartbroken by these stories, Sr. Stella was determined to help in whatever way she could. She thought if the girls could learn a trade, like sewing, they would be able to earn a living and care for themselves and their siblings. The orphan girls usually live with



▲ In addition to teaching girls in Tanzania how to sew, Sr. Stella Storch's AIDS Orphan Sewing Project also teaches young girls how to garden. (Submitted photo)

grandparents or foster families.

Education in Tanzania is free through seventh grade but there is tuition after that. She knew the girls would be victims if they had no formal education or training to follow, so she came up with a partnership called “The AIDS Orphan Sewing Project,” which is part of the St. Maria Goretti Organization of the Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, located in Bokuba.

While the sisters already had the beginnings of a sewing program at the school, Sr. Stella envisioned it as a three-year boarding school that would encompass education, a sewing and tailoring trade, and learning to cook, garden, clean and be self-sufficient.

“I knitted 100 scarves and sold them for \$20 each and bought their first treadle sewing machine,” she said. “In those years, we had sisters from that congregation studying at Alverno or

Cardinal Stritch and when the sisters would go back and forth, they would bring me things to sell. I started the Tanzanian Trunk Show, and I also went to craft shows and sold their things. I sold placemats, dresses, shirts and Batik bags, and raised funds for the school and sewing machines.”

Since Tanzania built its colleges, it is cheaper to educate the sisters there now and too expensive to ship the handmade items to the U.S. The trunk show ended in 2013, but Sr. Stella continues fundraising for the school.

Currently, 60 girls are enrolled in the program, and Sr. Stella fundraises to ensure the girls receive room and board, and are educated and supplied with all their sewing notions. They have learned to mend and make bags, dresses and even their school uniforms.

“Each girl starts with a treadle sewing machine, which will be theirs when they

graduate,” she said. “More than 500 girls have graduated since the inception of the program, and each received a sewing machine.

The treadle sewing machines cost around \$250 each, and Sr. Stella hopes benefactors will come forward to ensure the program continues.

“Sex trafficking of women and children is a multibillion-dollar business, and it occurs right here in our community and state. Empowering girls to earn a living and get an education is the best way to prevent the trauma of sexual abuse,” she said. “This program gives the girls the strength to believe in themselves, and not one of the girls who has been through the program have been trafficked. This is the only program that actually works with the teen girls to keep them from being trafficked.”

Because she is turning 80 in July, and she says, “she forgets a few things,” Sr. Stella is transitioning into an advisory role in managing the AIDS Orphan Sewing Project. Her friend, Tracy Abler, will begin overseeing the project.

“She is a dear friend of mine for the past 22 years. She is a laywoman and has my former job as the Coordinator of Justice, Peace and Ecology,” she said. “However, I will be in the picture for a while yet, as I have a history with so many donors and their families. I want to continue. For now, I am still the one who collects the donations and writes grants and thank you notes.”

If you want to help Sr. Stella on her birthday with donations to purchase sewing machines for the next classes of girls, visit <https://www.stmgo.org/index.html> and click on the donate button.

2023 Catholic Herald Business Guide



Access Elevator Provides a Needed Lift

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Jonathan Tevz didn't start out to create a company to help individuals with disabilities remain in their homes; originally, he was mowing lawns and landscaping, explained Frank Wasilewski, Vice President of Access Elevator.

"John was cutting the grass and a person was living next door to one of his clients, (and the) grass was high and kept growing," Wasilewski said. "He went over to see if he could generate a new client, but the man was disabled and living on a fixed income. He cut a deal with him and said if he would pay for the gas he would mow his lawn."

For more than a year, John mowed the man's lawn and one day, he wanted to show him something outside, but the man said he hadn't been able to leave his home in three years.

"John built a ramp to get him out of the house and that is how we got started," said Wasilewski. "John began researching and found there were a lot of people in similar predicaments. He saw a huge need and that's how we got started."

Located throughout Wisconsin and in Roselle, Illinois, Access Elevator was founded in 1990 and is a leader in ADA General Contracting and is dedicated to serving those with physical disabilities.

Approximately 26 percent of Americans live with a disability, and as the population ages, that number is on the rise. The Americans with Disabilities Act attempts to ensure equal access for persons who utilize wheelchairs or other mobility devices in public spaces; however, many private homes lack basic accessibility features.

Access Elevator's primary focus is on adapting homes, businesses and automobiles to make accessibility easier.

"John started doing ramps, widening doors and adapting bathrooms, as well



▲ Access Elevator can do custom projects to accommodate the needs of their customers, such as this vertical lift for a home office. (Submitted photo)

as other little things to help people," said Wasilewski. "He got into scooters and mobility aids and a few years later, after learning about lifts, he began installing ceiling lifts, stair lifts and vertical platform lifts. He got licensed in elevators, and began doing home and commercial elevators."

Being part of the community and living as independently as possible is among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families and advocates. An easy-to-navigate home of one's own — either rented or owned — is the cornerstone of independence for people with disabilities.

"It is important that people feel safe in their homes, and they can get out as

easily as possible," said Wasilewski. "We will lay out all the options for our clients, whether it is a handrail, rebuilding a staircase, installing an elevator or more. We generally lay out seven or eight options, which include short-term and long-term plans, and solutions to last the rest of their lives, not just the next couple of years."

Since Access Elevator began, they have helped more than 20,000 individuals and businesses navigate the best accessible options. Because they are also general contractors, they can do much more than install a ramp, handrail or elevator; they can remodel an entire kitchen or laundry room to accommodate a wheelchair.

"There are a lot of financial assistance

programs open for veterans, whether it is installing a grab bar, reconstructing a bathroom or building an entire accessible suite for them," said Wasilewski. "For those without military assistance, this type of work gets expensive, and Medicare does not offer any funding. We work with agencies and social workers for financial help, as well as apply for federal grants."

Wasilewski said working with the individual, family, medical management personnel and various funding sources has earned them high ratings in providing home and specialty modifications. Anyone interested in solving accessibility problems for their home, church or public building is invited to call and speak with their experts.

In addition to elevators, Access Elevator also provides lifts, ramps, bathroom and home modifications, wheelchairs and mobility equipment, vehicle lifts and ramps, caravans, dumbwaiters, stairlifts and more.

"We are out there to find a solution," said Wasilewski. "We will go through your daily life and really see what you need. Every home and every disability are unique, and what works best for one individual may not work for another. Every bathroom and stairway are also different. We want to cater to what our clients' specific needs are and we will walk through it with you, such as how you get to the bathroom, go to bed, get out of the house and more. We will explore all different types of solutions and work within your budget to accommodate you. Some of our clients are repeat and do a little more each year. It does get expensive, but we will work with any agency to get funding and grants."

For more information on Access Elevator or to schedule an appointment, visit www.allaboutaccess.com or call 414-727-2525 to find a location near you.



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Catholic Cemeteries Devoted to Honoring Precious Lives

LARRY HANSON
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Miscarriage is probably the toughest thing a mother — and a family — will go through.

So, people should be forgiven if they don't know the proper procedures on how to lay their baby to rest during an extremely stressful time.

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, which serves the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Catholic Cemeteries, can help.

Through their Precious Lives Program, CFCS will provide a warm, gentle, supporting, nurturing environment to help families cope with the loss of their unborn baby.

"Women have miscarriages and don't know where to go," said Mary Thiel, the Director of Cemeteries for CFCS in Milwaukee. "They don't know how to lay their baby to rest and the rules that surround it."

To that end, Thiel is planning an aggressive marketing and education program over the next year. The program will include two Outreach managers, a Facebook page, marketing materials and working with parish priests so they can provide the right answers for their parishioners.

In such a stressful situation, Thiel hopes seeing the message repeatedly and having readily available resources will enable the family to know what to do because it will be something they have seen and heard about.

"When you're in the moment, you're not thinking straight," Thiel said. "If you've never seen it anywhere or even know that there is a service out there (you have no way of knowing)."

If a woman miscarries at home at less than 20 weeks gestation for the baby, she



▲ Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, which runs Catholic Cemeteries for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, will help mothers properly bury their unborn children. (Submitted photo)

can come right to CFCS and they will provide a burial at no charge. CFCS will also pick up the baby from the hospital; Thiel said some mothers don't know to tell the hospital not to dispose of the baby.

"The importance is the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death," Thiel said. "This is a way to help communicate (with) and educate the community."

In addition to providing the free burial for the baby, CFCS staff provides a gentle landing spot emotionally for the mother.

"We're very gentle, because the Church's teaching is to respect life; however, some women miscarry at home and aren't able to save the baby," Thiel said. "We always have to be sensitive that if the woman wasn't able to save the baby, and she comes to us, we do have a cemetery chaplain who still provides services. The chaplain will call mothers and is able to provide spiritual direction and an ear to listen, whether or not they have the baby laid to rest."

The CFCS Precious Lives Program is a charitable mission program designed to alleviate all of the major expenses the family will face, allowing the family to focus on faith, grief and their family during this incredibly difficult time. The Precious Lives Program is also designed to assist hospitals with providing sacred interment for the death of an unborn child.

After 20 weeks gestation, the state considers the baby a person, so the family has to go through a funeral home and cemetery to get a death certificate. CFCS can assist with that, as well.

"As the Church, we know the difference that the baby's a person prior to 20 weeks gestation," Thiel said.

In that awful time of life, when they want to properly bury their unborn baby, mothers just have to remember one thing.

"They don't have to remember anything but to call us, and we'll help direct them," Thiel said.

Catholic Cemeteries can be reached at 414-438-4420 or by visiting cfcsmilwaukee.org.

All Lives Are Precious

Precious Lives and Pre-Born Program

The CFCS Precious Lives Program is a charitable mission program designed to alleviate almost all of the major expenses the family will face after the tremendous loss of a child. Allowing the family to focus on faith, grief and their family during this incredibly difficult time. The CFCS Precious Lives Program is also designed to assist hospitals with providing sacred interment for the death of an unborn child.

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services (CFCS) of Milwaukee is a charitable organization serving the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

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"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

The Sacred Decoration of St. Charles Borromeo

Early on a chilly October morning in 2022, the crew of Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc., arrives at the bustling construction site of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Hartland. They have come to observe the set-up of scaffolding inside the new building. Inside, the crew is met with a maze of metal as construction workers install railings, pathways and ladders leading up more than 100 feet toward the ceiling.

There is beauty in the anticipation of what the church will look like when it is completed. It is hard to imagine that the space where dirt covers every surface, construction workers shout and tools are laid out ready for use, is being transformed into a sacred space. The key element of this magic lies in the hands of the talented artists who will prepare the vision for what this holy space will look like by decorating the walls, installing stained glass and tastefully incorporating significant liturgical and historic images that will last for generations.

Since 1889, Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc. has been privileged to provide decoration, restoration, conservation and artwork for buildings of architectural, historic and religious significance throughout the country. The multi-faceted studio provides a full scope of architectural arts, including stained glass, decorative painting, ornamental plaster, scagliola, murals, sculptures and statuary.

Conrad Schmitt, who originally established the studio in Milwaukee, was a talented artist and businessman in his own right, and his leadership gained the company national recognition. The studio was purchased in 1953 by a staff



▲ The apse mural of the Holy Spirit at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Hartland. Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.'s work on the parish's new church should be completed later this year. (Submitted photo)

artist, Bernard O. Gruenke. Now, 70 years later, the fourth generation of his family is preparing to carry on the well-respected legacy and is still involved in the day-to-day operations.

The longevity of this familial legacy is what keeps the high quality of Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.'s work constant. They have seen it all, are surprised by little and know everything there is to know about creating artistic and awe-inspiring masterpieces, which is what keeps past clients, like St. Charles Parish, happy and coming back for more.

Pastor Fr. Ken Omernick is one such repeat customer. He noticed the art studio's work in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and throughout the country, and worked with them several times on smaller projects, such as the creation of a bas-relief sculpture of the church's namesake in 2014. Since then, the parish has grown and needs more space. They have raised \$12.4 million for their Cornerstone Project to build

their new church and renovate the existing space to meet the needs of their expanding community that has nearly tripled in size. Now that construction is complete, they have once again called on CSS for their decorative services and installation of several beautiful Austrian stained-glass windows that were previously used in another parish.

The building is quite literally an empty canvas ready to be painted and decorated with sacred art, much like Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.'s prestigious Acanthus Award-winning work for interior design in 2022 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. Projects like these are especially enjoyable for Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc. as they see the transformation take place before their eyes. "Beginning a project with a blank canvas makes for very dramatic before-and-after images," says Heidi Emery, Vice President of Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc. and one of the project

managers for the St. Charles project. "It is fulfilling from our perspective to help assemble the ideas, the history of the patron, the style of the architecture and harmonize all the elements to create a space that is beautiful, meaningful and tells a story to the parish."

Emery recognizes the unique qualities of this project. "It is not too often we are able to conceive an original design scheme for a newly built church in a classical style. It is rewarding to transform the space into the vision that Fr. Omernick and his committee had in mind. The new church, able to accommodate 1,100 parishioners, has a monumental bell tower and large dome and creates a prominent Catholic presence in the community."

The actual St. Charles Borromeo was adamant that church art and architecture be strictly scripturally based, aligning church aesthetics with the edicts at the Council of Trent, excluding any secular themes entirely. Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc. has attempted to honor this in their decorative motifs, using the art primarily as a teaching tool rather than purely aesthetic. These tools will come to life in a variety of ways, including two faux mosaics of deer on the iconostasis that reference Psalm 42, a glorious Holy Spirit mural in the apse dome, various motifs that reference St. Borromeo, anthropomorphized four evangelists at each corner in the crossing's ceiling, traditional Catholic symbols and finishing touches of faux marble, stencils and gilding.

At the time of this publication, the decoration of the church is estimated to be completed later this year.

DECORATING & RESTORING AMERICA'S SACRED SPACES



Pictured: Decorative Rendering for St. Charles Borromeo's New Church - Hartland, Wisconsin

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MCH Plans Pilgrimage to Ireland

Pack your bags and head to Ireland with Milwaukee Catholic Home.

The “Heart and Soul of Ireland” pilgrimage will take place June 2-11, 2024, and will be led by Fr. Timothy Kitzke, the beloved Pastor of the Family of Five Parishes and Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

“This trip will give us a special glimpse of a unique part of the world, with a wonderful mix of history, ancient ruins, stunning panoramic views, legendary castles and moats, and romantic and rugged regions of lakes and bogs,” Fr. Kitzke said. “There are illuminated manuscripts, religious ecclesiastical centers, arts and crafts, beautiful villages and, above all, the unparalleled hospitality and the lively, happy nature of the Irish people.”

Highlights of the “Heart and Soul of Ireland” pilgrimage include learning about the history and ruins of the early Church, visiting an Irish monastery, and celebrating Mass in gorgeous chapels, churches and cathedrals.

Travelers will also take in the breathtaking sites of Giant’s Causeway, the Cliffs of Moher, the Aran Islands and the Rock of Cashel. They will explore the charming cities and villages of Belfast, Derry, Sligo, Knock, Galway, Killarney, Kildare and Dublin.

Best of all, travelers will celebrate their faith, forming deeper bonds of friendship, and enjoying the food and customs of another culture. There is nothing like sharing such experiences with friends and family in faith.

“This unique pilgrimage will give participants a chance to practice our Catholic faith in sacred spaces throughout the Emerald Isle, and we will have countless memorable experiences to cherish together,” Fr. Kitzke added.



▲ Linda Cardinale (front, from left), Ruth Way and Margaret Naczek explore Main Market Square in Krakow, Poland, with Fr. Tim Kitzke during a pilgrimage in 2017. (Submitted photo)

“We will celebrate Mass at the Chapel of the Apparition in Knock, the site of one of the world’s most famous Marian shrines. That’s one of the many highlights on our trip that I’m especially looking forward to.”

This is not the first time that Milwaukee Catholic Home has taken enthusiastic and faithful travelers overseas. In fact, Fr. Kitzke has been the chaplain on two previous pilgrimages led and organized by the Milwaukee Catholic Home team. In May 2017, 42 friends of Milwaukee Catholic Home participated in the trip of a lifetime to Poland, followed by three days in Prague. Daily Mass was celebrated in cities such as Warsaw, Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow. Furthermore, 23 people attended a 10-day trip to Italy in April 2015; the trip included time spent in Rome, Sienna,

Assisi and Venice.

Anne Grunau, who went on both pilgrimages sponsored by Milwaukee Catholic Home, described her participation as “a memorable and meaningful investment in my faith. I have a deep love of history and religion and this experience brought my understanding of both to life.” Anne has travelled the world and yet states “that these opportunities to learn and worship together and to see the beautiful religious sites as well as the natural beauty of each region has made these trips among my most cherished.”

The “Heart and Soul of Ireland” Pilgrimage in 2024 and the organization’s past excursions to Poland and Italy are a living, breathing example of the “A Life Engaged” philosophy of

service at Milwaukee Catholic Home.

“We believe that an engaged life is a full life, and the more aspects of your life that you engage, the healthier and happier you age,” said Amy O’Connor, Vice President of A Life Engaged and Customer Experience. “A Life Engaged” is about answering that call to get out there and experience things that inspire you and excite you. It means you never stop growing, learning, being, desiring, loving, connecting, belonging, contributing. This philosophy is what inspires and informs our culture, experiences and opportunities. The upcoming pilgrimage is an exciting reflection of this.”

“A Life Engaged” enables a personal sense of purpose and belonging no matter where one is in their life’s journey. Thus, the vision for A Life Engaged programming is to create meaningful, joy-filled and consistent opportunities to engage in experiences that connect you with something bigger than yourself while simultaneously encouraging you to be who you are. If this upcoming pilgrimage to Ireland doesn’t exemplify that philosophy, I don’t know what does!”

MCH CEO Dave Fulcher said, “Milwaukee Catholic Home has set the standard for exceptional senior care in our 110-year history. If our founders a century ago could only see us now, I think they would be thrilled and amazed that we as an organization are providing our residents, their families and friends with the opportunity to grow in faith while experiencing the beauty and culture across the globe.”

Ireland will take your breath away, and we do hope you will consider joining us. For more information on the “Heart and Soul of Ireland” Pilgrimage, contact Linda Cardinale at 414-220-3216 or lcardinale@milwaukeeecatholichome.org.



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info@acc-u-rite.com
acc-u-rite.com

Alan Johnson, Chiropractor
W69 N968 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, 53012
262-375-4001
ajohnson@alanjohnsondc.com
alanjohnsondc.com_index.php

Anderson General and Implant Dentistry
10701 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, 53227
414-545-9090
dentistrywestallis@gmail.com
westallisdentistrywi.com

A-Plus Landscaping Services
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Cedarburg, 53012
414-234-8441
apluslandscapingservices@outlook.com
apluslandscapingservicesllc.com

Arbit Orthodontics
10602 N. Port Washington Road
Mequon, 53092
262-241-0600
susan@arbitbraces.com
arbitbraces.com/mequon-office-location

Balch Insurance Agency
5916 N. Green Bay Ave.
Glendale, 53209
414-247-2904
ebalch396@aol.com
balchinsuranceagencyinc.com

Bamboo Bistro
1955 Wisconsin Ave.
Grafton, 53223
262-204-8334
bamboobistrogrifton@gmail.com
bamboobistrogrifton.com

Bartz's Floor Covering
11360 W. Forest Home Ave.
Franklin, 53132
414-529-7770
pat@bartzsfloorcovering.com
bartzsfloorcovering.com

Becker and Grisar Dentists
1515 Wisconsin Ave.
Grafton, 53024
262-377-4130
contactus@graftondentist.com
graftondentist.com

Brentwood Animal Campus
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Franklin, 53132
414-427-2700
campusvet@animalcampus.com
animalcampus.com

Bruskewitz Funeral Home
5355 W. Forest Home Ave.
Milwaukee, 53220
414-321-1700
bfh1@att.net
foresthomefunerals.com

Bunzel's Old Fashioned Meat Market
9015 W. Burleigh St.
Milwaukee, 53222
414-873-7960
info@bunzels.com
bunzels.com

C&R Market
3001 S. Ninth Place
Milwaukee, 53215
414-747-9158
crmarket123@gmail.com
candrmarketmilwaukee.com

C.P. Conway Plumbing
1231 S. 62nd St.
Milwaukee, 53214
414-704-7240
cpconwayplumbing@att.net
cpconwayplumbing.com

Cedarburg Veterinary Clinic
N143 W6475 Pioneer Road
Cedarburg, 53012
262-377-2460
cedarburgvc@yourvetdoc.com
cedarburgvet.com

Cermak Fresh Market
1541 Miller Parkway West
Milwaukee, 53214
414-988-9051
support@cermakfreshmarket.com
cermakfreshmarket.com

Clement Manor
3939 S. 92nd St.
Greenfield, 53228
414-321-1800
kskoczynski@clementmanor.org
clementmanor.com

Donahue and Associates
2134 Wisconsin Ave.
Grafton, 53024
262-375-1900
info@donahuecpa.biz
donahuecpa.biz

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3970 North Oakland Ave., Suite 403
Shorewood, 53211
414-962-0389
team@draverdental.com
draverdental.com

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Milwaukee, 53224
414-206-0790
eltenampa1987@hotmail.com
eltenampamexgrill.com

EXP Realty/Tom Duhn
324 N. Water St., Suite 600
Milwaukee, 53202
414-333-6863
Tom@BadgerRealtyNetwork.com
badgerrealtynetwork.com

Exteriors Unlimited Landscape Contractors
6929 W. Dongs Bay Road
Mequon, 53092
262-242-4884
info@exteriors-unlimited.com
exteriors-unlimited.com

Feerick Funeral Home
2025 E. Capitol Drive
Shorewood, 53211
414-962-8383
kyle@feerickfuneralhome.com
feerickfuneralhome.com

FHK Insurance
6790 N. Green Bay Ave.
Milwaukee, 53209
414-228-7555
info@FHKinsurance.com
fhkinsurance.com

Forest Green Realty and Management
8575 W. Forest Home Ave., Suite 140
Greenfield, 53228
414-425-3134
support@forestgreenrealty.com
forestgreenrealty.com

Front Porch Financial Management
1340 W. Town Square Road
Mequon, 53092
262-236-9022
mfranks@frontporchfinancial.com
frontporchfinancial.com

Gene Wagner Plumbing
2017 S. 60th St.
Milwaukee, 53219
414-541-9217
scott@genewagnerplumbing.com
genewagnerplumbing.com

Golden Oak Dental Care
11345 N. Port Washington Drive
Mequon, 53092
262-241-4440
goldenOakdental@gmail.com
goldenOakdental.com

Hales Corners Care Center
9449 W. Forest Home Ave.
Hales Corners, 53130
414-529-6888
info@halescornerscarecenter.com
halescornerscarecenter.com

Hartson Funeral Home
11111 W. Janesville Road
Hales Corners, 53130
414-425-9797
Hartson_cares@wisconsinfh.com
hartsonfuneralhome.com

Health In Balance Physical Therapy
7602 W. Mequon Road
Mequon, 53097
262-236-0176
contact@healthinbalancept.com
healthinbalancept.com

Heritage Funeral Home
3801 S. Howell Ave.
Milwaukee, 53207
414-744-7039
info@heritagefuneral.com
heritagefuneral.com

Highland Park Family Dentistry
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Wauwatosa, 53213
414-475-9035
highlandparkdentist@gmail.com
highlandparkdentist.com

Investment Center
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Grafton, 53024
262-376-2220
info@icgrafton.com
icgrafton.com

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5555 W. Good Hope Road
Milwaukee, 53223
414-353-2900
wildtjimbo@sbcglobal.net
lodgescatering.com

Leff's Lucky Town
7208 W. State St.
Wauwatosa, 53213
414-258-9886
info@leffs.com
leffs.com

Legacy Capital Partners
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Milwaukee, 53226
414-27-1664
info@legacycapitalpartners.com
legacycapitalpartners.com

Les's Glass Service
10111 W. Forest Home Ave.
Hales Corners, 53130
414-529-1114
info@LesGlassService.com
lesglassservice.com

Libby Montana Bar and Grill
5616 W. Donges Bay Road
Mequon, 53092
262-242-2232
info@libby-montana.com
libby-montana.com

Life Navigators
7203 W. Center St.
Wauwatosa, 53210
414-774-6255
information@lifenavigators.org
lifenavigators.org

Mequon Smile Design
11649 N. Port Washington Road, Suite 112
Mequon, 53092
262-240-9400
office@mequonsmiledesign.com
mequonsmiledesign.com

Mike Ingrilli Plumbing
237 S. Curtis Road
West Allis, 53214
414-213-9617
mike@mip4u.com
mip4u.com

Milwaukee Brat House
4022 N. Oakland Ave.
Shorewood, 53211
414-539-5826
brathouseshorewood@heardhosp.com
shorewood.milwaukeebrathouse.com

Milwaukee Plumbing and Piping
11800 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, 53214
414-257-9000
info@milwplumbing.com
milwplumbing.com

Mueller Construction and Cabinetry
310 Elevator Lane
Belgium, 53004
262-285-7186
mueller310@wi.rr.com
mueller-construction.com

My Home Care
3510 W. Burnham St., Suite 200
Milwaukee, 53215
414-432-8300
myhomecarellc@att.net
myhomecare360.com

Noffke Roofing
10341 N. Granville Road
Mequon, 53097
262-242-5320
info@noffkeroofing.com
noffkeroofing.com

Oak Creek Dental Care
132 E. Drexel Ave.
Oak Creek, 53154
414-206-6012
oakcreekdentalcare@sbcglobal.net
oakcreekdentalcare.com

Parks Edge Preschool
10627 W. Forest Home Ave.
Hales Corners, 53130
414-427-9561
hello@parksedgepreschool.com
parksedgepreschool.com

Peace of Mind Funeral Services
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Milwaukee, 53214
414-453-1562
peaceofmindfuneralhome@yahoo.com
peaceofmindfuneralhome.com

Poole Funeral Home
203 N. Washington St.
Port Washington, 53074
262-284-4431
pfh@poolefh.com
poolefh.com

Poth Family Dental
100 Martin Drive
Fredonia, 53021
262-692-2461
info@pothfamilydental.com
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Ray's Butcher Shoppe
4640 W. Loomis Road
Greenfield, 53220
414-423-1322
raysbutchershoppe@gmail.com
raysbutchershoppe.com

Roman Electric
640 S. 70th St.
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info@romanelectric.com
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dreamplanenjoy.com

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Milwaukee, 53215
414-4811-8170
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servupharm.com

Sladky Family Dental
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Glendale, 53217
414-332-5450
info@sladkyfamilydental.com
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800-242-4735
sia@spectruminvestor.com
spectruminvestor.com

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stomper8878@yahoo.com
stomperconcrete.co

Stone Oak Landscapers
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414-289-9790
info@stoneoaklandscapes.com
stoneoaklandscapes.com

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414-704-3428
tgood@tascwi.com
tascwi.com

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boomb342@gmail.com
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cellaronoakwood@sbcglobal.net
cellaronoakwood.com

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nurturingnookgd@gmail.com
thenurturingnook.com

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Rlombardo31@icloud.com
steakoutmke.com

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villagecheesetosa.com

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topollpca@gmail.com
topollpca.com

Tri-Star Home Care
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tristarhomecare247@yahoo.com
tristarhomecare247.com

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viplumbing@gmail.com
viplumbing.net

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414-744-3834
wentamonument@sbcglobal.net
wentamonuments.com

Willowcrest Health Services
3821 S. Chicago Ave.
South Milwaukee, 53172
414-762-7336
Willowcrest@nshorehc.com
northshorehc.com/locations/willowcrest-health-services

Wisconsin Chiropractic Center
5050 W. Rawson Ave.
Franklin, 53132
414-377-8584
doctor@wichiropracticcenter.com
wichiropracticcenter.com

Women's Support Center
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Milwaukee, 53233
414-934-8888
wscmil12@gmail.com
wscmil.org

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info@ablertree.com
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steveandfaye@yahoo.com
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920-458-3406
elise@altmeyerelectric.net
altmeyerelectricinc.com

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Sheboygan, 53081
920-457-4455
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ballhornchapels.com

Best Plumbing of Mt. Calvary
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Mt. Calvary, 53057
920-753-2299
jimbestplumbing@gmail.com
plumbingbest.com

H.C. Denison Company Investment Securities
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Sheboygan, 53081
920-457-9451
invest@hcdenison.com
hcdenison.com

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Sheboygan, 53081
920-452-1261
tommyhohmann@yahoo.com
hohmannpainting.com

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Mayville, 53050
920-387-2312
jaimesclubhouse@gmail.com
jaimesclubhouse.com

Jim & Linda's Lakeview Supper Club
W3496 County W
Malone, 53049
920-795-4116
info@jimandlindas.net
jimandlindas.net

LaClare Family Creamery
W2994 County HH
Malone, 53049
920-670-0051
info@laclarefamilycreamery.com
laclarefamilycreamery.com

Lakeview Electric Contractors
N4599 Log Cabin Road
St. Cloud, 53079
920-477-4038
deb@lakeviewelectriccontractor.com
lakeviewelectriccontractor.com

Luke Luedtke Electric
380 S. Water St.
Lomira, 53048
920-979-4107
lhluedtke@gmail.com
wlukeluedtkeelectric.com

Marytown Garage and Sales
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New Holstein, 53061
920-898-4897
cconwell@marytowngarage.com
marytowngarageandsales.com

Meyer Motors
107 Plaza Lane
Plymouth, 53073
920-471-4099
janet@gomeyermotors.com
gomeyermotors.com

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815 Sixth St.
Kiel, 53042
920-894-3348
office@meiselwitzfh.com
meiselwitzfh.com

Mt. Calvary Dental
100 Evergreen Road
Mt. Calvary, 53057
920-753-2771
office@mtcalvarydental.com
mtcalvarydental.com

Off The Rail Coffee and Baked Goods
44A Gottfried St.
Elkhart Lake, 53020
920-876-3655
offtherail@wi.rr.com
offtherailelkhartlake.com

Park Avenue Sports Café
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Beaver Dam, 53196
920-885-4510
parkavesportscafe@gmail.com
parkavenuesportscafe.com

Puls Tree and Lawn Care
1056 N. Main St.
Mayville, 53050
920-382-1175
travisjpuls@hotmail.com
ptlcmayville.com

Salchert Meats
1305 Main St.
St. Cloud, 53079
920-999-2651
salchertmeats@gmail.com
salchertmeats.com

Schlaefel Optometrists
128 W. Main St.
Campbellsport, 53010
920-533-8426
schlaefel1916@schlaeferoptometrist.com
schlaeferoptometrist.com

Schroeder Brothers Home Improvements
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Sheboygan, 53081
920-452-4663
info@schroederbrothers.net
schroederbrothers.net

Specht Electric and Communications
3212 Wilgus Ave.
Sheboygan, 53081
920-457-7321
specht@spechtelectric.com
spechtelectric.net

Steffes Builders
810 Church St.
St. Cloud, 53079
920-999-2091
steffesbuilders@charter.net
steffesbuilders.com

Superior Bar and Grill
2607 Superior Ave.
Sheboygan, 53081
920-783-6707
sbgshboygan@gmail.com
sbgshboygan.wixsite.comsbg-sheboygan

Theel Auto Repair Inc.
N8348 Highway J
Elkhart Lake, 53020
920-879-2703
theelautosales@gmail.com
theelauto.com

TTI Inc.
W2266 County Road B
Eden, 53019
920-477-2708
ttiinc@titrucking.com
titrucking.com

Werner Harmsen Funeral Home
201 Jefferson St.
Waupun, 53963
920-324-3071
info@wernerharmesen.com
wernerharmesenfuneralhome.com

Wrightway Home Improvements
235 W. Scott St.
Fond du Lac, 54935
920-923-0721
info@wrightwaybuilt.com
wrightwaybuilt.com

Zacherl Funeral Home
875 E. Division St.
Fond du Lac, 54935
920-922-6860
info@zacherlfuneralhome.com
zacherlfuneralhome.com

Zimmer Westview Funeral Home
W2132 Carton Road
Howards Grove, 53083
920-565-2331
info@zimmerfuneralhome.com
zimmerfuneralhome.com

Zook Tax and Accounting
74 S. Main St.
Fond du Lac, 54935
920-922-7432
michael@zooktaxandaccounting.com
zooktaxandaccounting.com

RACINE-KENOSHA-WALWORTH COUNTIES

A&B Tax Service
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262-930-9157
abtaxracine@gmail.com
abtaxracine.com

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262-245-5597
michael@ackmanglass.com
ackmanglass.com

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24207 76th St.
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262-843-3078
rufinoortiz1982@gmail.com
antoniaspancakehouse.com

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6515 352nd Ave.
New Munster, 53152
262-763-6676
mysti.haager@bestbargainsinc.com
bestbargainsinc.com

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10811 Seventh St.
Sturtevant, 53177
262-859-3566
info@bnwinstallations.com
bnwinstallations.com

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Kenosha, 53144
262-657-3231
bosmanmonuments1957@gmail.com
bosmanmonuments.com

Burlington Family Chiropractic
196 W. Chestnut St.
Burlington, 53105
262-763-3700
appointments@burlingtonfamilychiro.com
burlingtonfamilychiro.com

Carpets Plus Outlet
1241 22nd Ave.
Kenosha, 53140
262-883-9494
cpo@carpetsplusoutlet.com
carpetsplusoutlet.com

Chances
205 W. Main St.
Rochester, 53167
262-534-2772
chancesrochester@gmail.com
chancesfood.com

Christopher Infusino CPA
6633 Green Bay Road
Kenosha, 53142
262-705-6063
infusinocpa@yahoo.com
infusinocpa.com

Cicchini Asphalt
4700 52nd Ave.
Kenosha, 53144
262-354-1929
office@cicchiniasphalt.com
cicchiniasphalt.com

Crawford and Wright Orthodontics
7851 Cooper Road
Kenosha, 53142
262-694-5272
office@crawfordortho.com
crawfordortho.com

Creative Concrete
30621 52nd St.
Salem, 53168
262-537-4495
1creativeconcrete@gmail.com
1creativeconcrete.com

Creative Edge Landscapes
144 E. Main St.
Twin Lakes, 53181
262-877-2805
contact@creativeedgelandscapes.com
creativeedgelandscapes.com

Custom Craft Carpentry
627 E. Main St.
Waterford, 53185
414-659-5026
Gary@cccloghomes.com
cccloghomes.com

Daniels Foods Sentry
681 Kenosha St.
Walworth, 53184
262-275-0458
billmelson@daniels-foods.com
danielsfoods.com

Delavan Health Services
905 E. Geneva St.
Delavan, 53115
262-728-6319
Delavan@nshorehc.com
northshorehc.com/locations/delavan-health-services

Derrick Funeral Home
800 Park Drive
Lake Geneva, 53147
262-248-2031
info@derrickfuneralhome.com
derrickfuneralhome.com

Doc's on the Fox Bar and Grill
232 Milwaukee St.
Waterford, 53185
262-514-3627
jklepp@docsonthefox.com
docsonthefox.com

Elkhorn Roofing Company
990 Koopman Lane
Delavan, 53115
262-723-6773
elkhornroof@charter.net
elkhornroofing.com

Fontana Family Dentistry
450 Mill St.
Fontana, 53125
262-275-8080
info@fontanafamilydentistry.com
fontanafamilydentistry.com

Geneva Lake Dream Homes
900 S. Wells St.
Lake Geneva, 53147
262-249-0009
Gldreamhomes@gmail.com
genevalakedreamhomes.net

Glembocki Concrete
33911 Geneva Road
Burlington, 53105
262-537-2187
info@glembockiconcrete.com
glembockiconcrete.com

Crow Rite Landscape
5535 Springbrook Road
Pleasant Prairie, 53158
262-694-6320
info@growritelandscape.com
growritelandscape.com

James R. Taylor Remodeling
2115 Division St.
East Troy, 53120
262-642-7970
jimjr@jrtaylorandsons.com
jrtaylorandsons.com

Ketter's Flooring
257 Milwaukee Ave.
Burlington, 53105
262-763-6259
kettters@kettters.com
kettters.com

Kevin Schmitt Siding and Insulation
21729 Bennett
Union Grove, 53182
262-878-3179
kssi@kevinschmittsiding.com
kevinschmittsiding.com

Lazarczyk Family Funeral Homes
515 Center St.
Lake Geneva, 53147
262-248-2320
lffhs@sbcglobal.net
lffh.net

Lifeforce Chiropractic
3204 Washington Ave.
Racine, 53405
262-633-8160
lifeforceip@gmail.com
lifeforce.standardprocess.com

Lonze Insurance Agency
125 N. Second St.
Delavan, 53115
262-728-2682
lonzeins@yahoo.com
lonzeinsurance.com

Luisa's Restaurant
6806 317th Ave.
Salem, 53168
262-537-4795
info@luisaspizza.co
luisaspizza.co

Maresh, Meredith and Acklam Funeral Home
803 Main St.
Racine, 53403
262-634-7888
office@meredithfuneralhome.com
meredithfuneralhome.com

Martino's Master Dry Cleaners
4700 Seventh Ave.
Kenosha, 53140
262-694-7858
martinoscleaners@gmail.com
martinoscleaners.com

Mealy Funeral Home
225 W. Main St.
Waterford, 53185
262-534-2233
johnkojjs@tds.net
mealyfuneralhome.com

Nitardy Funeral Homes
550 N. Newcomb St.
Whitewater, 53190
262-208-4495
info@nitardyfuneralhome.com
nitardyfuneralhome.com

Phil Gagliardi Electric Company
7128 91st Ave.
Kenosha, 53142
262-764-2291
brandon@philgagliardielectric.com
philgagliardielectric.com

Salute Italian Restaurant
314 Main St.
Racine, 53403
262-633-9117
saluteracine@yahoo.com
saluteitalianracine.com

Sturino Funeral Home
3014 Northwestern Ave.
Racine, 53404
262-632-4479
info@sturinofuneralhome.com
sturinofuneralhome.com

The Cheese Box
801 S. Wells St.
Lake Geneva, 53147
262-248-3440
info@cheesebox.com
cheesebox.com

The Dry Guys
4900 68th Ave.
Kenosha, 53144
262-605-1290
admin@thedryguys.com
thedryguys.com

Tim's South Side Auto
415 Getzen St.
Elkhorn, 53121
262-723-7784
timssouthsideauto@tds.net
timssouthsideauto.com

Town and Country Glass Company
7516 39th Ave.
Kenosha, 53142
262-694-1624
info@tandcglass.net
tandcglass.net

Toynton Funeral Homes
328 Kenosha St.
Walworth, 53184
262-275-2171
ToyntonFuneralHome@Hotmail.com
nelsonfuneralhomes.com/location/toynton-funeral-home-walworth-wi

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2820 26th Ave.
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262-455-1745
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waddleelectric.com

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wellsbrosracine.com

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Arise Family Day planned for July 22

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Arise Family Day is returning to Menomonee Falls Village Park on Saturday, July 22, offering attendees of all ages an afternoon of fun in a faith-filled setting.

Starting at 2:30 p.m., families will have the chance to interact with Bishop James T. Scheurman, priests, deacons, seminarians and religious sisters while enjoying live music and other family-friendly activities.

"I think families are excited to gather again for this wonderful day that integrates faith, fun and fellowship," said organizer Kristen

Winter of Arise Milwaukee, which is putting on this event for the third year in a row.

Winter said that attendees can expect the return of perennial favorites like Kona Ice, bounce houses and a rock climbing wall, with the addition of a few new attractions like freshly made cotton candy, a strolling magician and a photo area. Families can also enjoy Village Park's brand-new play area and splash pad.

From 5 to 6 p.m., families are invited to participate in a BYO picnic dinner; there will also be the option of ordering dinner from Chick-fil-A on-site, or grabbing takeout from

restaurants in nearby downtown Menomonee Falls. This will be followed by an outdoor Arise Worship Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m., featuring speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, confession opportunities and prayer teams.

Families are encouraged to invite others to join them at Arise Family Day, and the family who invites the most attendees will win a dinner and house blessing with Fr. Tim Schumaker, along with free admission to next year's event.

Since it was first held in 2021, Family Day has been a popular summer staple of Arise Milwaukee's event calendar. Winter attributes the growth of the day to "the goodness of God" in providing staff and volunteers who work hard to produce it, in doing so meeting a deep need that local families have "for a strong faith community to support them in living out their vocations joyfully and prayerfully," she said.

Though early registration is encouraged, walk-ins are still welcomed on the day of the event. Online registration runs through July 20, and the cost is \$25 per family.

There are still openings for teen and adult volunteers to assist with activities during Family Day, said Winter. Those interested in being a part of the excitement can email mackenzie@aristemke.org or familyday@aristemke.org to get involved.

For more information and to register a family, visit aristemke.org.

The popular rock climbing wall return for Arise Family Day on Saturday, July 22, at Village Park in Menomonee Falls. (Photo by Larry Hanson)



Catholic Memorial Grads Earn More than \$18.8M in College Scholarships

Catholic Memorial High School seniors in the Class of 2023 received more than \$18.8 million in college scholarship offers, an average of more than \$123,000 per student.

“The value of investing in a Catholic Memorial education has never been more evident. Colleges and universities are taking note of the incredible accomplishments of our students and making financial investments in their futures,” said Donna Bembenek, President of Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha. “The recruitment and acceptance of our students into top-tier universities and programs is not solely based on good grades in an academically rigorous school, it is also based on the track record of success of our graduates year after year. This CMH class has faced many challenges over their four years of high school and persevered. They modeled to us all what it means to rise above and press on. We are truly proud of every one of them and know they will do amazing things moving forward.”

Among the Catholic Memorial Class of 2023:

- 96 percent will be attending a technical, two- or four-year college or university.
- Class average GPA of 3.68.
- 59 students were on the honor roll every semester of high school. (3.5 GPA or higher)
- 30 students committed to compete at the collegiate level for athletics.
- Four students enlisted in the military to serve our country.
- 45 students are International Baccalaureate Diploma and



▲ The Catholic Memorial High School class of 2023 earned more than \$18.8 million in college scholarship offers. (Submitted photo)

International Baccalaureate Career Related Program candidates (the highest level of advanced education available at a high school level).

In addition to the scholarships awarded to the graduates of Catholic Memorial, numerous students were directly admitted to their college of choice within their universities and several students received direct admittance to honors programs. The Catholic Memorial Class of 2023 will also benefit from college and university credits granted for their work in the

International Baccalaureate program, Advanced Placement assessments, concurrent enrollment credits, Project Lead the Way STEM courses and internship experiences.

“Our graduates are accepted to top-ranked universities and colleges, many of them even enter college with second semester freshman or sophomore status,” said Bembenek. “College credits earned in high school saves money, provides priority to our graduates when registering for in-demand college courses and gives them first options for

dorm rooms. The benefit of earning so many college credits in high school are numerous.”

CMH graduates will attend 61 top universities and colleges across the United States, including the University of Notre Dame, Washington University, Rutgers University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Tennessee, the University of Dayton, Marquette University, the University of South Carolina, Belmont University and Wake Forest University.

Women of St. Jude Award Winners Named

KATE KELLEHER JUNK
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

St. Jude the Apostle eighth grade students Nora Parsons and Liam Riley received the Women of St. Jude Christian Awards in May.

The \$2,000 awards, which will be put towards each student's high school tuition, recognize Christian values, strength of character, and involvement in church, school and community activities. All eighth grade students in the parish were eligible for the awards. Applicants submitted essays, references and a profile of their activities and service projects.

Nora, the oldest of two children, has attended St. Jude since 4K. She said she has loved her time there and is grateful for the supportive, caring environment she received there. She points to teachers who help students grow and get out of their comfort zone, empowering them to become the best versions of themselves. The school has been an environment where Nora thrived. "You can be yourself. I've made so many great friends there, and the academics are really great too."

Outside of school, Nora plays volleyball, participates in Irish dance, and is a Girl Scout. Her troop hosts numerous fundraisers, including car washes and



▲ *Nora Parsons. (Submitted photo)*

rummage sales, in order to give back to the local community.

Nora is looking forward to attending Divine Savior Holy Angels school in the fall. She started attending summer camps there in middle school, and hopes to participate in stage crew and robotics.

Nora's parents, Jonathan and Brenda, are very proud of Nora and her many accomplishments. "She's special in a lot of different ways. She works really hard at her school work. She's a caring daughter and conscientious about things going on in the community."



▲ *Liam Riley. (Submitted photo)*

Liam, the middle of three children, joined the St. Jude school community midway through the second grade. Though a change during a school year is never easy, seeing how welcoming everyone was and how amazing the teachers were made everything fall into place. "The teachers are always ready to help whenever I need and the students are all really nice."

Liam volunteers at the school thrift shop each Wednesday, and is constantly on the lookout for other special projects to help those in need — such as operating scoreboards for the Special Olympics tournaments, assisting at a

homeless shelter, or visiting a neighbor whose children have special needs to help out. He does this in addition to his numerous school and extracurricular commitments — he is a four-sport athlete (lacrosse, volleyball, baseball, basketball), an honor roll student, musician, and Boy Scout. Liam will attend Marquette University High School in the fall, where he hopes to both grow his current interests and expand into more activities — especially engineering and science.

"He always finds a way to look out for people that are just less fortunate."

Liam's parents, Jason and Christine, feel "extremely honored" that Liam was chosen. They explained the eighth grade class at St. Jude's is "a fantastic group of kids," each involved in service in their own way. They explained that service started at a young age with Liam. "We'd go to a playground. Even when he was like three, four or five, he'd always (want) to befriend others, you know, who maybe weren't playing with someone else and he just kind of, he did that, he does the same thing ... it really it comes easy to him, at least it appears to — being friends with all different types of people and making them feel better about themselves."



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LIVING OUR FAITH
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Knights Award Scholarship to St. Joseph Grad

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Eric LaMere, a 2023 graduate and valedictorian of St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Kenosha, recently won a \$500 scholarship from the Knights of Columbus.

The scholarship was largely based on his essay on overcoming social media and online pornography addictions and how both have affected his relationship with God. The 18-year-old said he chose to write about the topics because he feels they are the most difficult struggles he has faced thus far in his faith.

"I also feel that they affect countless other young Catholics in America," he said.

LaMere, who belongs to St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Kenosha, plans to study computer science and physics at Northeast University in Boston in the fall. He is the son of the late Steve LaMere. He lives with his mother, Lori LaMere, and stepfather, Steve Rosenberg. He also has a brother, Mike, and a stepbrother, JC Rosenberg.

While LaMere admitted it was difficult to quit such strong habits, especially considering the brain's pleasure center, he said that with strong faith and the support of friends, he believes that any addiction can be overcome.

Talking it over with a priest during confession was key in helping him to get through the challenge, he said.

"The priest told me that we, as humans, are simple beings looking for adventure and beauty," LaMere said. "Social media and pornography are both mediums to achieve this sense of adventure and beauty, but in the wrong way."

In the end, it was his Catholic faith that helped him get through the struggle.

"It was absolutely huge. It was the one thing that really centered me on my path to overcoming those challenges and guided me towards the correct



▲ Eric LaMere, a 2023 graduate of St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Kenosha, received a \$500 scholarship from the Knights of Columbus for his essay on overcoming an addiction. (Submitted photo)

path," said LaMere. "So, I urge others who are struggling with the same issues to find beauty and adventures in their everyday life. Once I realized that God's creation was beautiful enough, it was easy to quit."

Eric LaMere's winning essay

Throughout history, Christians have been tempted to sin and stray from the path of God toward pleasure and selfishness. However, in the modern age of technology, these temptations have invaded every facet of our lives. Specifically, the cell phone has opened the floodgates of temptation with the prevalence of social media, constant notifications, and easy access to pornography. These effects of the cell phone are insidious and cause us to stray from sanctifying grace.

In 2023, 95% of internet users, including myself, are also social media users. A recent study found that most teenagers spend up to 5 hours daily on social media such as TikTok, Instagram, or Snapchat. At my worst, I spent 4 hours of my day on social media. This was due to the addictive tactics that social media platforms use to keep you on their app. For instance, apps like Instagram or

TikTok track how long you spend viewing a post before you scroll to determine other content the algorithm should show you. This hooks young, impressionable teenagers with constant dopamine rewards to make more money from the advertisements the apps display. By doing this, free time becomes all about social media. We lose the time to form meaningful relationships, think critically, learn, volunteer, and pray. Whenever I was "too tired" to pray before bed, it was always due to hours of mindless scrolling. Social media has corrupted our minds and damaged our ability to think in silence and listen to God. To combat this addiction, I simply deleted my social media and set hard limits on my phone usage. By doing so, I have found that I have so much more time to spend doing other things I enjoy. I have also found it much easier to communicate with God and discern my path.

The average cell phone user receives hundreds of notifications a day. Whether those be text messages, calls, emails, or social media notifications, we are relentlessly bombarded with our ringtones. After each of these interruptions, it takes about 23 minutes to refocus. And when these notifications are constant, it is not uncommon for people to be unfocused for hours at a time. I have struggled to study, read, or pray with a phone around as the notifications constantly tempt me to check them, even if I know nothing important. And each time, I found it increasingly difficult to refocus and complete the task, especially during prayer. After a notification, I would often drift from my prayer into other thoughts, such as what that person said, where my friends are going, or what new post my favorite celebrity made. To solve this, I have started to pray with my phone in an entirely different room. There is no reason I need my phone during prayer, so why allow it to tempt me and distract me from growing closer to God?

Finally, the most detrimental effect of the

internet and cell phones is easy access to pornography. Forty million U.S. adults regularly visit pornography websites, and 10% of U.S. adults have admitted to having an addiction to pornography. This type of content is the devil's way to poison and corrupt our minds. It is impure and causes unhealthy changes in your dopamine reward center, brain chemistry, and views on sex in general. It sets unrealistic expectations as to what sex truly is: the joining of two people into one after marriage.

Admittedly, during the COVID lockdown, I discovered pornography as I had nothing else to do.

I quickly latched onto it as it gave me a fleeting sense of pleasure in an otherwise lonely world.

It was challenging to break the habit as, like a drug, it was as if I needed it to be happy.

However, through prayer and an awakening to the sickening videos I was watching, I went cold turkey. And, even though that avenue of pleasure was gone, I found myself much happier and at peace through my prayer life.

Ultimately, leading a good Christian life is difficult, especially in today's society, where cell phones have provided us with multiple methods of distraction and unhealthy pleasure.

However, through prayer, discipline, and an acceptance that the cell phone is a problem, I have found ways to limit the effects and temptations of my cell phone. In hindsight, it is unsurprising that through the "loss" of my unhealthy "dopamine crutches" from social media and pornography, I have found a much more fulfilling and enjoyable life in the Church.

Need help or know someone who does?

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has resources available to help those who are struggling with a pornography addiction. Visit archmil.org/pornography-help.

Reflecting on the Beauty of Fireworks

It was already nearly dark on July 3 when my friend and I headed to Waukesha to see the fireworks. Neither of us had been there before, we arrived only a few minutes before the show was scheduled to start and we found streets that were thoroughly lined with parked cars. We tried a side street, which turned out to be even more crowded and pulled into a driveway to turn around when the owner of the home flagged us down and invited us to park there. Though the act was simple and small, my friend and I were both floored by his generosity and were gushing about how kind he was as we walked the very few blocks to the park, arriving exactly on time for the beginning of the show.

I love fireworks. I obviously love that they are big and gold and spectacular. But I also love that we have repurposed instruments of war to be symbols of celebration, freedom and peace. At this park, in particular, the parallels were striking. My friend and I sat at the edge of an enormous field, sloping up into a hill on our left, which was visible mainly because of the crowds of people wearing glow-bracelets. In front of us, the field ended in a tree line behind the fireworks launching pad. I found myself strangely moved by the glimpses I caught of the shadowy trees lit by the fireworks and obscured by the billows of smoke they left at the ground level. It looked like something out of a war movie. Indeed, what we were experiencing was a collection of the same material circumstances of which a battle is made: people gathered in a field to light up their firepower. Of course, our event was utterly different because the objective was utterly different: not conflict but celebration.



YOUNG ADULT

JACINTA VAN HECKE

Every time I watch fireworks, I think of a short scene from the HBO miniseries about World War II, “Band of Brothers.” In the midst of an absolutely brutal stretch of battle, in the Ardennes forest in the dead of winter and under enemy shelling, one character is lying in his foxhole and remembering the fireworks shows of his childhood. For that brief moment, in the midst of all the horror of war, he takes delight in “the most spectacular display of firepower I had ever seen.” The firepower he watches there in the Ardennes forest is the instrument of unthinkable destruction and horror, displayed in the next scene. But we use those very same materials to make something beautiful and inspiring.

Silly as it may sound to spend all this time reflecting on the nature of fireworks, I have found them to be a striking metaphor for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Who we are as people is created good and twisted by sin. Our desires, personality traits, even our basic needs can all get skewed in the brokenness that came with the fall. The way we were created for love can become a desperate grasping, a use of other people, a forgetfulness of the only love that can truly satisfy. With every twist away from who we were created to



▲ Catholic Herald columnist Jacinta Van Hecke sees parallels between fireworks and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. (Photo by Larry Hanson)

be, our lives become more broken, more bound by compulsions, more capable of hurt and destruction. However, God’s plan is not to erase who we are but to redeem it. The material of our souls, capable of sin and horror, is also capable of the heights of holiness to which we are called. Every movement away from sin and toward God, who is love, makes our lives less like the weapons of destruction and more like the beauty of fireworks. Those movements can be costly and difficult. Sometimes, it can feel like being trapped in a foxhole or fighting for your life in the smoke of war. But the ground we are gaining and the holiness we are called to is becoming the person God created us to be. As much as it might not feel like it in the midst of the process, the excellence of his creation looks like freedom, beauty, joy and love.

That beauty is something to be shared. I have to imagine every person in that crowd was remembering the horrible tragedy that struck a Waukesha

community celebration less than two years ago. But that memory lent a new depth of meaning to the fact that everyone still came together to celebrate. The fireworks show had an undercurrent of defiance: that the reality of sin and evil cannot keep us from goodness and from what God calls us to. The presence of each individual added up to a community that refuses to be destroyed by tragedy. Every movement we make toward love not only matters but has a real impact on the world around us. The man who let us park in his driveway may have thought nothing of his own generosity, but his action had an outsized impact on our hearts, making us feel provided for and free to enjoy the gift of the fireworks.

With each step toward goodness, even if we cannot see it in the news, our hearts, our communities and even our world will become a little less like the firefights of war, and a little more like the beauty of fireworks.

Staying in My Own Lane

“What concern of it is yours? You follow me.” (John 21:22)

Jesus had just asked Peter three times if Peter loved Jesus, and three times Peter said yes. Jesus concluded by saying, “Follow me.” When Peter looked behind, he saw John and asked about him. This is when Jesus responded, “What concern of it is yours? You follow me.”

In other words, “stay in your lane.”

I was struck by how direct, almost sharp those words are. I’ve been praying a lot with how much Jesus loves us. How we bring God joy and delight. Those words remind me of a parent talking to a precocious child who seems to think he knows better. Those are words to remind us of our smallness and help us be humble.



REAL LIFE. REAL FAITH.

MERRIDITH FREDIANI

I’m not sure how those two sentences presented themselves to me recently, but they were a little like stepping on a rake while skipping through the grass. I realize now I’ve been getting a little full of myself. I’ve succumbed to the lie that I know best. I’ve been out of my

lane. If only my lane had big guard rails and rumble strips to alert me that I’m straying. Alas, it doesn’t, and it isn’t until I’ve veered off — or sometimes even careened — that I realize that a course correction is needed.

“What concern of it is yours? You follow me.” I need to hear these words, and having them said to me by Jesus gives them an extra punch.

I’m not sure where this desire to be right comes from — especially since history has shown that I’m often wrong. But there are times I am so sure I know best that I see through a lens of judgment instead of compassion. I forget that there are three sides to everything and that maybe my side is in fact right but really there’s only a 33

percent chance of that being the case. I dig my heels in and persist, though, and it’s not an attractive side to me.

The Lord taught me this lesson about five years ago, and it seems I still need a refresher course occasionally. Now what?

Now comes sitting with the reminder and being thankful for it. Those words are printed out and taped to my computer screen so I see them often. I imagine Jesus looking at me sternly but with love. He knows. He knows where I struggle, and I am thankful for his mercy and forgiveness. It’s good to be reminded that I’m not all that and a bag of chips. I’m simply a woman pursuing holiness and getting hung up along the way. If he were an angry God, there would be no hope. He’s not. He’s a compassionate God who wants me to cast aside hubris even more than I want me to.

In his goodness he doesn’t just chastise, he offers a solution. “You follow me.” We all can overcome our weakness by keeping our gaze fixed on him, by continually asking him for help and how we can follow. The Bible is full of stories where Jesus demonstrates compassion, humility and charity. We can meditate on the Gospel stories and find Jesus there, gently leading us closer to him.

It’s not easy. We will fall off course. We will get enchanted with other shiny things and become distracted. When that happens, he reminds us, “What concern of it is yours? You follow me.”

“Oh yes,” we will say. “I’m sorry. I am weak. I am loved. Please help me.” He will. We can count on it.

The Good News
A weekly encouraging message from Archbishop Listcki!

The Good News is being spread in a new way! Archbishop Jerome E. Listcki is offering a brief weekly video message called “The Good News.” Follow the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on Facebook or Instagram and look for “The Good News” in your feed every Wednesday. Please share it!

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Riddles of the Kingdom

“Riddle me this: There are three men in a boat with four cigarettes but no matches. How do they manage to smoke?”

So queries the Riddler in the classic 1960s Batman TV series starring Adam West. “Boy Wonder” Robin, Batman’s trusty sidekick, provides the riddle’s answer:

“They threw one cigarette overboard and made the boat a cigarette lighter!”

The answer is, of course, a pun, and no real answer at all. Instead, it opens one’s eyes to view the scene in a completely different light, to delight in the play on words that emerges and to begin to understand the twisted (and silly) mind of the Riddler.

This week, we begin reading the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Taking them at face value, Jesus’ parables may seem like simple images meant to convey understanding of the Kingdom of God to simple people. He uses agricultural images, for instance, that the people would understand based on their own life experience — images of birds and seeds, and bushel baskets. In some sense, this is true.

In this week’s Gospel, we hear the parable of the sower, and are led to ponder how seed falling upon different soil fairs differently: some eaten by birds, some sprouting, some choking and some producing abundant fruit. Simple enough.

Yet, Jesus himself proclaims that the purpose of his parables is precisely not so that his hearers can easily grasp their meaning and move on to the next thing with pat wisdom easily acquired, but so that they will be confronted by their own blindness and inability to hear with understanding.

“This is why I speak to them in parables,” Jesus says, “because ‘they look but do not see and hear but do not



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

FR. JOHN MITCHELL

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

listen or understand.” (Matthew 13:13; cf. Isaiah 6:9) In other words, Jesus wants to break them out of their normal mode of seeing and understanding the world, and to begin to see things in a new light — to begin to understand the rightly ordered (and beautiful) mind of the Logos. Dig just a little deeper, and questions begin to arise — riddles, embedded in Jesus’ parables, that make us scratch our heads and acquire deeper vision.

In fact, the Hebrew word for parable is “mashal,” and it comprises a wide variety of figurative speech — veiled discourse — including the riddle. A mashal’s meaning is best opened up when one looks for the “twist” it provides on conventional wisdom.

So, for starters, any good farmer would note that this sower of seeds is apparently a very bad farmer. He must not understand the value of his seed since he throws it indiscriminately on the field and the road alike. Why would Jesus compare himself to a bad farmer? The yields described of this seed are

equally ridiculous. How can seed produce a hundredfold of fruit, or even 60 or thirtyfold for that matter? What is Jesus talking about?

He is speaking, of course, of the Kingdom of God, which is already present in his own coming, and yet takes the form of a seed with incredible potential to multiply if only something particular happens to it. That something is precisely what happened to all the prophets who came before him. Namely, they were utterly rejected, and even killed for proclaiming the Word of God to a deaf and blind people. That’s us.

Jesus shows those who have ears to hear how the grain of the Kingdom of God must fall to the ground and die so that it can produce abundant fruit. (cf. John 12:24) The parable is about him. He is both the sower and the seed sown. He is the Kingdom incarnate. And the parable is less an invitation to improve our Bible

study in the hopes of improving the soil of our heart, important as that may be; instead, it is more an invitation to die to ourselves with Christ in order to rise with the eyes and ears of those blessed of his Kingdom who seeing, see, and hearing, hear, precisely because they have died with him and so unlocked the nuclear fusion of sacrificial love.

Plugged in to that reactor, our rootlessness is healed. Tribulation and persecution no longer cause us to fall away. Worldly anxiety and the lure of riches lose their choke hold on us. (cf. Matthew 13:21-22) Instead, we come to “share in the glorious freedom of the children of God,” which Paul speaks of so eloquently in his Letter to the Romans. (8:21)

Riddle me this: should we not all shed a proverbial cigarette and so become a cigarette lighter?

† Our Catholic Traditions

Celebrating with Saints Joachim and Anne

July 26 is the feast day of Ss. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. While not mentioned in the Bible, information about their lives is found in other writings.

Anne, born in Bethlehem in Judea, married Joachim, a wealthy and devout man from Nazareth. As the childless couple grew older, Joachim, having been reproached in the Temple for his sterility, fled to the countryside to pray. Anne was deeply saddened by his sudden disappearance, so she prays to God that if they were given a child, she would dedicate it to Lord’s service. Both were then visited by

an angel who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a child — Mary. The account of their lives parallels the Old Testament narrative of another childless couple, Abraham and Sarah, who conceived Isaac at an old age.

In France and French Canada, July 26 is the day to honor grandparents. Grandparents are honored by visits with their grandchildren, who bring with them exquisite fruit tarts and other desserts.

— Kim Mandelkow, Director, Office for Worship



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ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Catholic Herald Publication — Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Are you an experienced sales professional who is passionate about your Catholic faith and would like to use your skills and experience to sell advertising and advance the teachings of the Catholic Church in Southeast Wisconsin?

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has an opportunity for an Advertising Sales Representative for the Catholic Herald publication.

The Catholic Herald informs, forms and inspires a 10-county family of 550,000 Catholics in southeastern Wisconsin to learn, grow and share their Catholic faith. The publication is full of content and advertisers geared toward families, support, assistance, guidance and faith, and reflects the values shared among a strong Catholic community, with Milwaukee as one of the top five most Catholic cities in the nation.

The Advertising Sales Representative reports to the Managing Editor and is a member of the Communication Office team.

- Responsible for selling advertising and servicing existing accounts as well as procuring new clients for Catholic Herald editions, website, and the annual Pastoral Handbook.
- Sells via email, phone and personal visits, using current marketing information and adhering to Archdiocese of Milwaukee ethical standards.
- Stays current with advertising trends, competitive media, and new business openings.
- Develops new advertising sales strategies and builds relationships with current advertisers and potential clients.
- Advises clients regarding effective marketing of their product(s) and/or services.
- Produces quarterly and annual advertising sales forecasts.
- Provides weekly updates to Managing Editor regarding client contacts and sales results.
- Responsible for informing advertisers about upcoming special sections, promotions, rate information, deadlines, market information, etc.
- Responsible for coordinating the layout of ads (with assistance of production department), presenting ad proofs to clients, scheduling ads by deadline, and securing proper rate for each client.
- Responsible for creating sales strategy and participating in planning meetings for special editions.
- Coordinates updating of media kit with new ad rates, updated readership information and impactful marketing language.
- Monitors collection of delinquent accounts while maintaining positive customer service.
- Participates in general staff, departmental, and inter-departmental staff meetings.

Qualifications:

- 2 years of advertising sales and/or customer service experience.
- Professional demeanor with strong communication skills, a positive outlook, self-motivated, team oriented with the ability to build relationships.
- Computer skills including Outlook, Excel, and Constant Contact. Some experience with Adobe preferred.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church is preferred.
- Practicing Catholic in good standing is preferred.
- Must possess a valid drivers license.
- It is expected that the individual who is hired for this position will not conduct sales on behalf of any other organization while a member of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee communications staff.

Compensation:

Commission-based position with a monthly base for first three months.

Benefits:

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee provides a full scope of employment benefits including health care, dental and paid vacation including holidays and Catholic Holy Days. The position is located at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center.

To Apply:

Send cover letter and resumé to Jennifer Pollock, Associate Director of Human Resources at pollockj@archmil.org

● SATURDAY, JULY 15

St. Kateri Feast Day Event: 1 to 5 p.m., Catholic Ecology Center, W1468 County Road NN, Neosho. Celebrate the feast day of ecology's patron saint. The day's agenda offers fun and education for all ages, featuring a natural paper-making workshop, a guided bird hike and a talk from Tracy Dereszynski, author of "Wandering With God - A Spiritual Journey in Nature." The event concludes with Mass at 4 p.m. Registration is required. Tickets are \$4 for children older than 6 and \$14 for families and free for CEC members. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-kateri-feast-day-event-tickets-604062135107>.

● SUNDAY, JULY 16

Break Your Fast with Sursum Corda Young Adults: Following 10 a.m. Mass, St. Stanislaus, 524 W. Historic Mitchell St., Milwaukee. Enjoy coffee, doughnuts and hot ham with other young adults. Meet on the patio if the weather allows; otherwise,

meet in the parish hall.

● THURSDAY, JULY 20

Brewing the Faith: 7 p.m., Ope! Brewing Co., 6751 W. National Ave., West Allis. Join Brew City Catholic for its summer social series, meeting other young Catholics for fellowship and an inspiring message. No registration necessary. For more information, visit brewcitycatholic.com.

● SATURDAY, JULY 22

Arise Family Day and Worship Night: 2:30 p.m., Menomonee Falls Village Park, N87W16749 Garfield Drive, Menomonee Falls. Visit with Bishop James T. Schuerman, deacons, priests, seminarians, religious sisters and Catholic families from around southeastern Wisconsin, all while enjoying snacks, entertainment and family fun. Cost is \$25 per family. Arise Worship Night to follow at 6 p.m., with praise and worship music by The Scally Brothers. For more information and to register, visit arisemke.org.



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HELP WANTED

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DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA ILLINOIS

The Diocese of Peoria is seeking a skilled and dynamic leader to develop the work and mission of Catholic Charities. Under the direction of the Bishop, this role is responsible for design, implementation, and oversight of all social service and social justice programs of Catholic Charities for the 26 counties in our diocese. The Diocese of Peoria continues implementation of its pastoral plan, Growing Disciples. See full position details at <https://cdop.org/careers/> - Spalding Pastoral Center - Peoria. Please submit cover letter and resume to humanresources@cdop.org

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KATE KELLEHER JUNK
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

What is it you appreciate most about Catholic education?

My husband and I joke that Catholic schools are our family business. We love Catholic schools because we value how, in a Catholic school, we can explicitly form the spiritual life of our students in addition to the intellectual and physical dimensions. From being able to talk about God to praying in all forms and at all times, Catholic schools provide a well-rounded education steeped in faith and rooted in the Gospels.

What opportunities are you looking most forward to in your new role as Executive Director of St. Eugene and St. Monica schools?

I am eager to form a strong leadership team with the principals of St. Eugene and St. Monica. Together, we will create a vision for our schools that will ensure our vitality and Catholic identity for the future. I look forward to mentoring, creating strong professional development opportunities and working on curriculum initiatives.

Your daughter followed in your footsteps to attend Dominican High School. What is special about that community?

I had an amazing experience at Dominican and I think Rose's experience was even better. I just wish more people would consider sending their children there and understand what a great high school it is and all it has to offer. Rose got involved with campus ministry and continued to feed her spiritual life. I think that has really put her on solid ground now that she's in college. You always worry as a parent. Are your children going to continue to feed their faith when they're in college? Rose goes to church every Sunday. She's gotten her roommates who aren't

MY FAITH MINI-PROFILE

Rebecca Jones Executive Director, St. Eugene and St. Monica schools

- Jones has served 27 years as principal in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, including 24 on the North Shore. She attended St. Monica School and served as the principal of Holy Family School and St. Eugene School.
- She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Marquette University.
- Jones is a 2018 recipient of the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Leadership Award.
- Jones was named Distinguished Alumni of the Year by her alma mater, Dominican High



School, Whitefish Bay, for her outstanding contributions to Catholic education.

- She and her husband, Eamonn O'Keeffe, the high school principal of St. Mary's Springs Academy in Fond du Lac, are the proud parents of Rose, who is in her sophomore year at DePaul University, Chicago.



▲ Rebecca Jones (center) is married to St. Mary's Springs Academy high school Principal Eamonn O'Keeffe. Their daughter, Rose, attends DePaul University. (Submitted photo)

Catholic to come to church with her on occasion, and she's not afraid to express her faith. I really think she got that foundation both at St. Eugene and at Dominican, and we're just so grateful for that.

You stepped away from your work as an educator for a bit; how did you get pulled back in?

I stayed home after the birth of our daughter. When she was entering first grade at St. Eugene, our principal, Michael Taylor, took another position, leaving St. Eugene in need of a principal two weeks before the start of school. Our pastor, Fr. Jerry Herda, knew my background and asked if I would step in to be an interim principal. I had no intentions of returning to school leadership. I thought I would return to the classroom. However, I needed to give this strong consideration. How could I say no to my pastor? And I was invested in my daughter's school. So I said, "yes." I thought it would be for a year. As the year unfolded, I fell back in love with Catholic school leadership. The strong faculty and supportive families drew me back in. I was invited to apply for the position permanently. I was offered the position, which led to 13 wonderful years serving as St. Eugene's principal.

It sounds like you had a similar experience of answering a call when it comes to your new position. Is that right?

Yes. In various conversations it kind of evolved. Fr. Mark (Payne) had this idea (for a new position – director of St. Eugene and St. Monica schools), and then I thought I could see how this could work. Fr. Mark said, "Well, if we do this, I would really like you to be in that position." Which of course was very humbling and exciting. I'm so grateful, to both Fr. Jerry and to Fr. Mark, that they have trusted me with these positions.

► **HERALD OF HOPE, FROM PAGE 3**

Left Field: Possibly, it is merely by coincidence, or maybe it is because there are a multiple number of outfielders on a baseball team, but history shows that those who play this position tend to be the best hitters in the game. In fact, the top five players who lead all of baseball in career hits primarily were outfielders (Pete Rose, Ty Cobb, Hank Aaron, Stan Musial, Tris Speaker). Many outfielders are so adept at making contact with the baseball that base hits seem to fly off their bats like rain falling from the clouds, bringing forth a bountiful harvest of runs. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of left field for Francis Xavier, the 16th-century missionary saint of the Society of Jesus. The passionate love for the Lord and the evangelical zeal of St. Francis Xavier were so great that a similar bountiful harvest of hits sprang from his missionary work in the Far East, resulting in more than 30,000 Baptisms.

Center Field: It sometimes is said that the greatest of center fielders are born and not made. Perhaps that is because there are a number of athletes who have played the game of baseball with what is called the “Five Tools” — speed, power, hitting for average, fielding and throwing. The talent of players like Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Dave Winfield and Ken Griffey Jr. was so radiant that it seems like they were touched by grace in the womb and destined for the Baseball Hall of Fame at birth. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of center field for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. After all, she truly was touched by grace in the womb, and her array of sanctity and spiritual tools are such that poets have called her the greatest boast of our human nature and, as such, the model for what discipleship is meant to be.

Right Field: Among the many players who have played the position of right field, some of the most memorable

of them have been known for their powerful throwing arms. Some of the best arms possessed by right fielders belonged to Roberto Clemente, Ichiro Suzuki and Carl Furillo. Furillo was so adept at throwing out base runners that he was given the nickname the “Reading (Pennsylvania) Rifle.” A strong arm actually is critical to play in right field, especially when runners are seeking to advance to third base. Interestingly, the pages of the Holy Bible are filled with references to the strong right hand or arm of the Lord (Psalm 118:16-17) with which he works mighty deeds. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of right field for Alphonsus Liguori, the 18th-century saintly founder of the Redemptorist religious community and an esteemed moral theologian. He was deemed the “patron saint of moral theologians” by Pope Pius XII and was known for blending Sacred Scripture and pastoral theology in his writing to help confessors to prevent sin from scoring.

Pitcher: Present-day baseball fans seem to favor pitchers who primarily throw fastballs and do so with immense velocity. However, I always have favored those who ascend the mound more so as pitchers and not just as throwers. I have been fascinated by pitchers who can change speed and location and the rotation of the ball to coax batters to make outs and ultimately secure victories. Pitchers like Whitey Ford and Greg Maddux were like scholars on the ballfield. In such a spirit, I cast my vote for the holy position of pitcher for St. Thomas Aquinas, the 13th-century Dominican scholar whose system of theological thought was so respected that he has been called the “Angelic Doctor.” Moreover, Aquinas also was gifted with a profound spirituality, manifested in such reverential hymns as *Adoro Te Devote*, *O Salutaris Hostia*, *Panis Angelicus* and *Pange Lingua Gloriosi* (*Tantum Ergo Sacramentum*). How well the “Angelic Doctor” has equipped us Catholic teammates with a repertoire of pitches to secure wins for the glory of God.



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