

# CATHOLIC HERALD



## God Calls

World Day of Prayer  
for Vocations, May 7

**DEACON JOHN BAUMGARDNER**  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

“Lord, what is it that you want me to do with my life?”

I can still vividly remember asking this question for the first time, one night in my dorm room as a freshman at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. I had just returned from a meeting of a Catholic men’s group where we had talked about vocations. Back in my dorm room, it was the first time I had honestly asked that question to God, and I remember hearing him telling me: “Priesthood.”

My response? “Ok, that’s funny, but really, what do you actually want me to do with life?” His response was again:

► **READ MORE PAGE 4**

◀ *Even bigger than the smiles on the faces of students are the collaboration efforts happening in Racine Catholic Schools. [see page 18]*

## Whatsoever You Do ...

The Riverwest Food Pantry provides volunteers and college interns a chance to be part of a “Community of Generosity.”

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## Catholic Social Teaching

The complex issue of immigration brings together the protection of individual rights and national security, says Fr. Javier Bustos.

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## Welcome message to readers of the first edition of the Catholic Herald, Feb. 16, 1922:

“In this important work of Catholic unification, every man is welcome if the Catholic Herald is going to fulfill the promises made by its founders. It will, by its fullness of Catholic news at home and abroad, by its fearless and emphatic Catholic tone and attitude, and by its loyal following of ecclesiastical guidance, become a valuable champion of Catholic truth and charity, and deserve an honored place beside its older and well-merited brothers in the Catholic journalistic field.”

— Most Rev. Sebastian Gebhard Messmer,  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Dear Catholic Herald Readers,

Christ has Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

In this joyous season of Easter, which we celebrate for 50 days until Pentecost Sunday, the Church rejoices in the Good News brought to the disciples by the angel at the empty tomb: He is Risen!

Our own archdiocesan newspaper has a Herald Angel as its patron and brings this same “Good News” into your homes throughout the year. What better way to celebrate and live your faith, than by keeping informed of all the wonderful things happening in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

As a faithful reader, you will notice some changes in your archdiocesan paper beginning with this week’s edition. Renewing our mission to provide readers with stories that teach, inform and inspire, the Catholic Herald has a new format and new look. We will focus more on our local Church, with features about parish life, people, activities and events that shape the life of the Church in southeastern Wisconsin.

You will still see some familiar faces, but also some new names bringing you the Good News, and we hope you’ll contribute by encouraging others to subscribe and read the Catholic Herald. Maybe consider a gift subscription for a family member or friend.

Most importantly, I want to thank you for your support in ensuring our Catholic stories are shared within our community. And, please check out my Herald of Hope column; I need the readership!

With assurance of prayers, especially during  
this joyous Easter season, I am,

Sincerely yours in the Risen Christ,

*+Jerome E. Listecki*

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



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# Mary Is the Vehicle to Embrace God's Plan

Hail Mary full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!

With these words, the Angel Gabriel, God's messenger, announced God's plan to the Virgin Mary.

This is May, and has often been referred to as the month of Mary, even though Marian feasts are celebrated all throughout the year in the liturgical calendar. Perhaps it's the spring and the sense of new birth, perhaps it's the feeling of the warmth of the sun after a long winter. Or, perhaps it's the shedding of the winter garb that makes us feel more free and more capable of making plans that seems to make May a good fit for the Blessed Mother. We look to Mary as the vehicle of our regeneration allowing us to embrace God's plan.

One is hard pressed to examine the Catholic Spirituality of a nation and not discover a dedication to the patroness or protection of the Blessed Mother. Mexico has Our Lady of Guadalupe, Poland, the Black Madonna (Częstochowa), the United States, the Immaculate Conception and a multitude of other feasts dedicated to Mary as a sign of her protection of the peoples of a nation. Recently, I celebrated at the shrine of Alter Gracias in the Dominican Republic, where she is heralded as a protector of the nation. I was privileged to go right up to the image itself and touch religious articles entrusting their recipients to the Blessed Mother. In 2006, I visited the shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Our Lady of Valankanni in Tamil Nadu, India. Millions of visitors come to the shrine; some are even Hindi and Muslims. This site has not been approved by the Holy See, but its appeal to the sense of the holy cannot be denied.

In my history as a Catholic grammar school student, we would prepare for the May crowning. Students would bring fresh flowers and a girl was chosen by the sisters to carry the flowery crown and place it on the head of the Blessed Mother statue. After signing a few Marian hymns, we would all kneel down and pray the rosary. Many of us would look forward to this event, not only for our reverence for the BVM, but also in



## HERALD of HOPE

ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI

anticipation for the summer break, which was just around the corner.

The spiritual DNA of many Catholics contains a strong identification with Mary. Many of our non-Catholic brethren misunderstand our special relationship with the Blessed Mother. Some say we treat Mary as God, because we honor the maternal relationship that Mary had to Jesus. She was His mother and of course, He is true God and true man. "God is with her, meaning that all she did or left undone is divine and the action of God in her. Moreover, God guarded and protected her from all that might be hurtful to her." This is a quote taken from Martin Luther (Luther Works, vol. 43, p. 40). It's obvious that her role cannot be ignored. After all, it was her response to God's invitation, her "fiat voluntas tua" (thy will be done), her acceptance that presented Jesus Christ to the world, the mystery of the incarnation (God taking flesh).

It is interesting that Mary as mother continues to guide her children in their relationship to Jesus, even after the resurrection. Throughout the ages, apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary have occurred. St. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, St. Juan Diego of Our Lady of Guadalupe are well-known shrines dedicated to the apparition of Our Lady. It's apparent that Our Lady wishes to convey a message to her children. Often times, it's a plea to follow her Son through prayer and obedience to Church teaching. The authenticity of the appearance is verified by the scrutiny of the Church. Mary never speaks against the Church, which is the Bride

of her Son and His body on earth. The spectacular aspect of the apparitions has led Hollywood to depict the occurrence in movies offered to the general public. The *Song of Bernadette* is certainly one of the more popular presentations.

2017 is also the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. During the apparitions, Our Lady asked the children to pray the rosary for the conversions of sinners and the salvation of souls. Our Lady warned of the spread of world communism and atheism and predicted World War II. The last apparitions contained the "miracle of the sun," and unexplainable solar reaction that was witnessed by over 70,000 people.

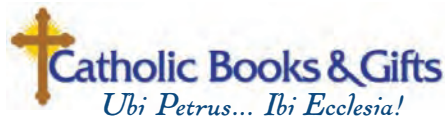
I would be among other faithful that attributed the downfall of the Soviet Union to the prayers, especially the rosary, offered at the request of the Blessed Mother. When the Berlin Wall came down, believers all across the world knew that it was in answer to prayers.

St. John Paul II, when he was pope, credited the Immaculate Heart of Mary for saving him from the assassin's bullet. The bullet was placed in the crown of the newly created Our Lady of Fatima statue for the purpose of veneration.

On May 13 in Fatima, Pope Francis will add two new saints to the list of heavenly witnesses when he will canonize two of the three children of Fatima: Jacinta and Francisco. The third child, Lucia, lived a long life and died in 2005. This champion of faith fulfilled Our Lady's wishes to be a promoter of the devotions to her Immaculate Heart. I am confident she is in Mother's arms.

With the world experiencing global uncertainty through nuclear threats and uncontrollable terrorism, it is obvious that "peace" is sorely needed. True peace comes through a profound confidence in our relationship with God, and this can only come about through prayer. During the month of May, let us turn to Our Lady, who instructs her children to pray the rosary for peace and trust in her Son. She offers Him as the world's only hope.





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Presenters: The Retreat Team

#### 13th Annual Spring Retreat for Members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon May 19 – 21

This is not a silent retreat. The program consists of discussion meetings covering some of the twelve steps and corresponding topics. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the area and the fellowship of other recovering individuals

Contact: Br. Gerry Patin, C.Ss.R.

#### Celtic Spirituality Retreat June 2 – 4

Theme: *"Eternal Echoes: Walking with John O'Donohue Through Celtic Spirituality"*

Presenter: Mrs. Julianne Stanz

#### June 5 – 10 Preached Retreat for Women Religious and Associates

Theme: *"A Time to do Nothing for as Long as you Can"*

Presenter: Fr. Allan Weinert, C.Ss.R.

#### June 19 – 24

#### July 11 – 16

#### July 24 – 31

#### Preached Retreat for Women Religious and Associates

Theme: *"The Way of the Disciple"*

Presenter: Fr. Gregory Schmitt C.Ss.R.

#### July 10 – 15

#### Private Together for Men – Religious and Lay

A private retreat, while at the same time share community with other men at Eucharist and Evening Prayer.

Presenter: Br. Gerry Patin, C.Ss.R.

**Contact the Retreat Center to register or for more information.**



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▲ Encouraging vocations are Deacon John Baumgardner with members of the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

#### ► GOD CALLS, FROM PAGE 1

"Priesthood," to which I said to myself: "Uh oh..."

This Sunday, May 7, the Catholic Church in the United States and throughout the world will observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We have the opportunity to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Most people live this vocation to love through the vocation of marriage. However, God still calls men and women to love Him with an "undivided heart," to live out the vocation to love within the particular vocations of priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Though it was very much a surprise, God called me to the vocation of priesthood.

After high school, I attended the University of Saint Thomas primarily because I was interested in studying business, and thought I would marry and raise a family. It was in college where I experienced a conversion, and for the first time, began to make our Catholic faith my own. As I now approach ordination to the priesthood, I feel tremendously blessed.

Why do I write today? I wish to humbly ask the readers in the Archdiocese and beyond to pray for an increase of vocations.

Pray that a "culture of vocations"

will continue to be fostered in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

For us as Catholics, it should be our prayer that, in a similar way, the idea of praying, reflecting and then responding to the vocation that God calls us to would be ingrained in our Catholic culture. As a seminarian, I have really enjoyed the opportunities to visit our Catholic grade schools and high schools to speak about vocations. I have been very edified by the great work of the teachers and the faith of so many families in our parishes. It is apparent that the idea of discerning God's vocation in life is part of our Catholic culture, and is becoming part of what we do as Catholics. But, is there more that we could do?

Let us keep talking about vocations, so that a "culture of vocations" may continue to be fostered, so that a discernment of the Lord's call – whether it be to marriage, priesthood or religious life – is something that young people grow up with. Please pray that a "culture of vocations" will continue to be fostered in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee! On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2017, may it be our prayer that young people be not afraid and respond with generous hearts to the call of Jesus in their lives.

*Deacon John Baumgardner will be ordained in July. He is currently in his fourth year of theology studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.*



# Safe Environments Celebrated with #ServeWithLove

This is a special week in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee having been named “Safe Environment Week” and brings April, which is National Child Abuse prevention month, to a close. Highlighted this year is an inspirational image contest, “Serve With Love.” There are two ways for children in the archdiocese to show their love by creating something beautiful. There is a poster contest and an inspirational message contest — #ServeWithLove.

The theme comes from Pope Francis’ statement, “Only those who serve with love are able to protect.” Seeing the image of God in every person, young or old, and serving them in concrete ways helps us protect and maintain environments that are safe for all.

While this seven-day stretch should get special attention, “Every day is Safe Environment Day,” said Patti Loehr, safe environment coordinator for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. “We work very hard in all our parishes and schools to make sure it is safe to live, learn and play all the time.”

Participating in Safe Environment Week could be a class project, an art project, homework assignment or something to do as a family. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee hopes that your parish family and school will take the time to observe Child Abuse Prevention Month during Safe Environment Week (April 30 — May 6, 2017) by creating something beautiful to reflect the message of love. We invite students from grades K4 — 12 grade to illustrate how everyone is invited to #ServeWithLove.

## How to Enter

**For the Poster** Contestants may utilize any art medium (crayons, markers, watercolors, etc.) The poster must be



▲ Archbishop ListECKi judging the 2016 Safe Environment poster contest.

on ledger paper (11x17) or larger. The final winner(s) from each age group will be chosen by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi. The winning posters will be displayed in the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, as well as on the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s social media for all to admire.

**For #ServeWithLove** Use the theme of Pope Francis’ quote, or even just #ServeWithLove. Pick an image of your surroundings, nature, scenic, etc. Snap an arty shot. Pick an app phone, tablet, computer and create something inspirational. Contestants may use the photo filtering app liked best. Here are some recommendations that may help: Snapseed for iPhone, Photofy for Android phone or tablets, Microsoft Paint or Photoshop on a computer. Entries should be submitted to: [social@archmil.org](mailto:social@archmil.org).

Submissions are due by Friday, May 12.

“I truly believe our schools and parishes are among the safest anywhere,” Loehr said. “We must keep up our awareness until it becomes second nature.”

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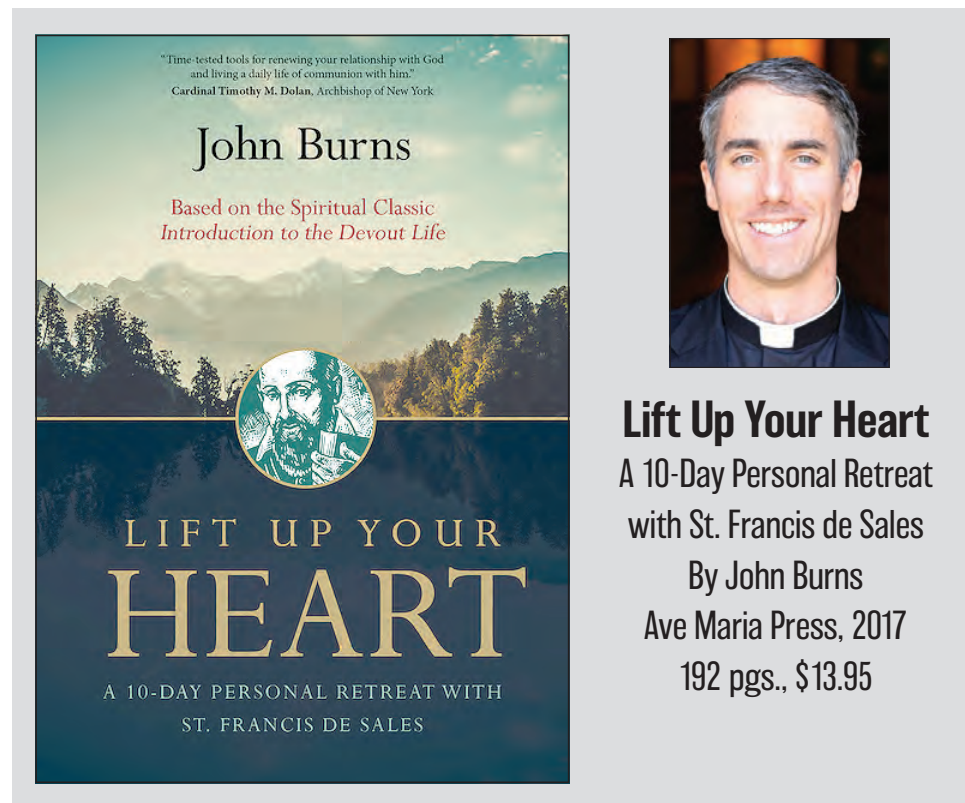


# Diving Deep to Lift Up Your Heart

PATRICK RUSSELL  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

When you were a child, you likely spent some hot, summer days swimming in a lake. Did you ever, like I sometimes did, purposely dive deep down into the darkest depths until you felt you were threatening your life? You feel the cold ooze of water press against your body. You hear the water surrounding you incessantly ring with urgency, and feel the panic pressure pushing against your chest seeking essential air. Then, you suddenly take a pulling stroke upward, shooting up from the darkness to the light. Exploding through the water's surface, you swallow a deep, life breath in a raspy gasp. As you looked around, the sun is now more brilliant, the colors of the trees are more vibrant, the rush of the wind is more exuberant. Then, you turn to your swimming partners, and you are amazed that they are oblivious to this moment — your exercise in challenging and choosing life.

In some ways, this is the experience that Fr. John Burns calls us to have in his recently published book, *Lift Up Your Heart: A 10-Day Personal Retreat with St. Francis de Sales*. As the title indicates, Fr. Burns' book draws heavily from the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, after whom Milwaukee's archdiocesan seminary is named. One of St. Francis' great contributions to the Church was his classic work, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, which provided the average person with spiritual practices that can be integrated into daily life. Even though St. Francis was a 17th century bishop, his guidance about building a relationship of love with God through prayer is just as valuable today. His thoughts on prayer are inspiring, his



**Lift Up Your Heart**  
A 10-Day Personal Retreat  
with St. Francis de Sales  
By John Burns  
Ave Maria Press, 2017  
192 pgs., \$13.95

insights on God are thrilling and his guidance on embracing life are renewing. St. Francis de Sales was truly a gifted spiritual master.

Fr. Burns' accessible work does not strive to unpack the totality of St. Francis de Sales' spirituality. Instead, it focuses only on the 10 meditations found in one of the five parts of the *Introduction to the Devout Life*. These 10 meditations are the most challenging prayer exercises in St. Francis' work. As Fr. Burns states, "No doubt, these are not easy meditations to make ... They include topics the contemporary mind often considers unpopular or irrelevant, including considerations of the traditional 'four last things': death, judgment, heaven, and hell." Fr. Burns' purpose, therefore, is to "make the contents of the original 10 meditations accessible to the mind and heart of

a believer many centuries after they were composed." Calling his effort a "refashioning," Fr. Burns expands these meditations through discussions on the modern challenges of living a righteous life, personal anecdotes from his own spiritual path, and theological reflections on the meditations' topics. Especially helpful are the concrete images that Fr. Burns employs to explain some of his theological points.

Steven Covey, the author of the *Seven Habits of Seven Highly Effective People*, says that, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." This is an apt description of Fr. Burns' ultimate purpose. By leading the reader in a prayerfully deep dive into sin and love, death and life, damnation and salvation, hell and heaven, Fr. Burns strives to recalibrate our life toward the main thing: God. By orienting our spiritual

compass to God, our true north, we can navigate past submerged temptations and around looming dangers during our life journey so as to arrive at heaven, our final destination.

I was fortunate to receive Fr. Burns' book just prior to the Easter Triduum, the three days in the liturgical year when we focus on Jesus' final confrontation with the powers of this world that led to his death on a cross and, ultimately, his resurrection. Fr. Burns' reflections supplied a powerful Lenten exercise of swimming into the depths of my spiritual waters, and then bursting forth into the bright light of Easter. St. Francis' original meditations are provided in an appendix, so the reader is able to see how Fr. Burns is orienting and expanding St. Francis' work. I found it personally fruitful to start by praying with one of St. Francis' meditations from the appendix, and then reading Fr. Burns' reflections.

I have known Fr. Burns as a colleague, as he has been an adjunct instructor at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. He is a talented teacher and engaging priest, but through his book I have now encountered him as a spiritual guide. His book calls us as Christian disciples to immerse ourselves in the waters of the wholehearted life by encountering the essence of who we are — creatures loved by God. Enjoy the swim!

*Dr. Patrick Russell is the Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Scripture Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis. He is also the co-director of the consortium of universities and seminaries archaeologically excavating the biblical site of Bethsaida in Israel.*



# Lectio Divina Aids Faith Experience

RORY GILLESPIE  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Deacon Michael Koebel of West Bend has a sure-fire way to increase your faith experience each Sunday.

"I guarantee," he said with a tone that leaves nothing to doubt, "that you will be yearning to hear the Gospel message. You will go to liturgy with a hunger, with a yearning to hear it, you will want to learn more."

'Lectio Divina,' which is Latin for sacred reading, has helped Koebel, who was ordained a deacon in 1990, increase his faith and he is afire to share. Koebel uses this method of prayer daily and assures it can help with any problem. Whether it is a difficult addiction, trouble with work, a challenging neighbor or needing to show more mercy in your life, turning to God's Word in the Scriptures and taking some time to read, reflect and pray will supply the answers a person is seeking.

A good way of incorporating this prayer into your life, Koebel suggests, is to spend time each day reflecting on the readings for the upcoming Sunday liturgy.

"What it boils down to is listening to God," Koebel said. "Too many times, when we pray, we have an agenda of our own, that is a type of talking to God. This way, God is talking to us."

The process is to read Scripture, reflect and pray to grow in a more loving relationship with God. Learning about Scripture empowers us to live its message and apply it to daily life.

Begin by finding a quiet, relaxing place, and maintaining a posture of prayer (back straight, eyes shut, feet flat on the floor). Then, follow these steps.

First, read a passage of Scripture. In this example, one of the Sunday reading. This is the section known as *lectio*.

Second, pray the selected passage with attention as you listen for meanings that may come to mind. Reading again silently and reflecting and meditating is known as *meditatio*.

Third, make the exercise active as you pick a word, sentence, or a concept from the Scripture text. How does this section affect you, does it remind you of a place, person or feeling? Now, pray about it. Collect your thoughts and put them into a simple phrase. This part of the process is *oratio*.

Finally, close your eyes, quiet yourself and feel your breathing. Let your thoughts, feelings and apprehensions fade away as you think about the passage from the *oratio* step. This step is the *contemplatio*.

Although Deacon Koebel will often let his Lectio Divina time run for hours, giving 10 to 20 minutes is a great start. He preaches three times a month at St. Frances Cabrini and Immaculate Conception/St. Mary parishes, both in West Bend, Holy Trinity in Newburg. He says the toughest part of this exercise is to learn to quiet ourselves. People have to put away their own agendas and let God guide them, he said.

"We need to do more listening to God through the Sacred Scriptures," Koebel said. "Lectio Divina will give you a burning heart to read more, to have God formulate what he wants in your life and it will give you a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ."

Using a phone, pad or computer will find "miles" of Scripture commentaries to help. Another suggestion is going online to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (<http://usccb.org/bible/readings>), and having the daily reading sent directly to you.

"This is how I discern God's message and how to deliver it, whether I am preaching to 100 or 1,000. It is his words, and not mine."



Deacon Michael Koebel



**HIGH SCHOOL**  
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# A Community of Generosity

## Celebrating the Riverwest Food Pantry

**BR. SILAS HENDERSON, S.D.S.**  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

“This is a community of ...”  
“GENEROSITY,” exclaims Samantha Vosters with volunteers and guests, called “shoppers,” as they gather on Saturday mornings at the old St. Casimir School — now part of the parish of Our Lady of Divine Providence — at 924 E. Clarke Street. Vosters serves as the Volunteer and Intern Program Coordinator for the Riverwest Food Pantry, an important resource for local Milwaukee neighborhoods, including Riverwest and Harambee.

Established in the late 1970s as an initiative of the East Side Housing Action Committee, the Riverwest Food Pantry has served tens of thousands of needy and at-risk community members through its outreach programs at Our Lady of Divine Providence and Gaenslen Public School (1250 E. Burleigh Street).

In 2012, Riverwest Food Pantry expanded its outreach, incorporating other programs under the leadership of Vincent Noth, a parishioner of Our Lady of Divine Providence. “What has animated us as an organization from the beginning is the power food has to be an entry point to connect with people in poverty, in hopes of changing lives and walking with a community toward health and well-being.”

The mission of Riverwest Food Pantry relies on the generosity of benefactors and the dozens of volunteers who offer their time and energy each week, building community and accompanying poor members of the community through practical works of mercy. A new initiative by the leadership at Riverwest Food



▲ Volunteers help sort supplies at the Riverwest Food Pantry. (Riverwest Food Pantry photo)

Pantry is helping to incorporate young adults into this mission.

“There is a deep hunger in our world for community, a hunger among young people to rediscover neighborhood and reimagine parish life,” Noth said. “The initial group of us who drew together did so to learn from those in poverty, to draw strength from shared common life and to embrace as much as is possible the rich prayer tradition of the church.”

Guided by these values, Riverwest Food Pantry has created a live-in intern program for young adults, placing them in houses within the neighborhoods they serve. “The result in our parish has been a growing community of young people who come together to pray and serve the poor. But, the need in Milwaukee is so great,” Noth continued. “There is nothing better than a life of sacrifice amidst deep relationships of love and service to God.”

These are the values that Samantha

Vosters hopes to instill in the six, full-time interns currently serving in the Riverwest Food Pantry. The interns, who come from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois, all receive room and board, as well as a small, monthly stipend. While these interns live in community — in separate houses for men and women — their lives and ministry are firmly rooted in Catholic Social Teaching.

“Anything that is dealing with the dignity of a person,” Vosters said, “at the end of the day, that’s Catholic social thought. Everyone is created in the image and likeness of God, so how are we preserving and upholding that dignity? The way that we do things at the food pantry, is very much ‘how are we going to have the most dignified response for people?’”

The Riverwest Food Pantry’s “Choice Program,” which allows their clients to choose the food options that are best for their family, as opposed to receiving a pre-selected assortment of food items

based on family size, supports human dignity by allowing clients to choose what they want and what their families need. Beyond this, the volunteers and interns are brought together in an environment where, as Vosters said, “Everyone gives and everyone receives. It is a community of generosity. No matter how rich you are, you have something to give, and no matter how poor you are, you have something to offer. This is the heart of the Gospel.”

Quoting *Gaudium et Spes*, the Second Vatican Council’s document on the Church in modern world, Vosters shared a guiding principle in her work with the interns: “Man ... cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself” (§ 24). Vosters continued, “People are here to give, and they are really finding themselves. For the interns, the more they give themselves to the mission, they are coming to know, more deeply the joy of God in their lives.”

To help the interns reflect on their experiences, opportunities are provided for theological reflection, intercessory prayer, Eucharistic adoration, the Liturgy of the Hours and the Mass. “The only way our work can be fruitful,” Vosters said, “is if it’s flowing from God and going back to him.”

In the end, Vosters notes, quoting Fyodor Dostoevsky, “‘Love in action’ is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams.’ But ‘love in action’ is what we long for, along with deep and radical service.”

To learn more about the Riverwest Food Pantry and the intern program, visit [riverwestfoodpantry.org](http://riverwestfoodpantry.org).



# Immigration: Our Patriotic and Catholic Responsibility

FR. JAVIER I. BUSTOS  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Immigration is at the very heart of America. We are a country of immigrants. Robert F. Kennedy said, “Our attitude towards immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal. We have always believed it possible for men and women who start at the bottom to rise as far as the talent and energy allow. Neither race nor place of birth should affect their chances.” As Americans and Catholics, this is the country we all believe in. However, recent interpretations and opinions on immigration have challenged our beliefs.

In 1998, St. John Paul II wrote: “Immigration is a complex question, which concerns not only individuals searching for more secure and dignified living conditions, but also the population of the host countries. In the modern world, public opinion is often the chief rule that political leaders and legislators prefer to follow. The danger is that information, filtered only according to a country’s immediate problems, will be reduced to absolutely inadequate aspects, far from expressing the tragic reality of the situation.” By having public opinion as the main criteria for our reflection on immigration, we will miss the true demands of our faith and the understanding of the tragic reality of this issue.

Immigration involves the encounter of the individual right of the person genuinely seeking for better living conditions and the responsibility of the hosting country in providing safety and security for the communities. These two, however, are not exclusive. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) explains that by



▲ Fr. Javier Bustos engages his parishioners at St. Joseph in Waukesha.  
(Catholic Herald photo by Pete Fenelon)

embracing the following steps, we honor both the individual right to migrate and the necessary security of the hosting country:

**A comprehensive immigration reform.** “Regulating immigration, according to criteria of equity and balance, is one of the indispensable conditions for ensuring that immigrants are integrated into society with the guarantees required by recognition of their human dignity.” (Compendium of Social Teaching, 298) This reform should include: earned legalization, a future worker program, family-based immigration reform, restoration of due process rights and addressing root causes of migration. Welcoming the immigrant is at the heart of who we are as Church. Christ — the cornerstone of

the Church — reveals himself in those in need: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” (Mt 25: 35-36) Our quest for the Risen Lord will inevitably take us to meet the immigrant and the refugee. A person-centered immigration law will provide millions of people to come out of darkness and prevent the unjust slavery of fear and lack of opportunities. The current situation and law are feeding the gangs in our streets and dividing families and communities.

**A discriminative enforcement of the law,** which adhere to the following three principles: (1) “U.S. enforcement interventions and resources should

be narrowly tailored, focusing on the dangerous and criminal elements. U.S. enforcement should not rely upon ethnic and racial profiling and should not be so overly broad as to curtail basic rights.” (USCCB); (2) “Enforcement of immigration laws should not feature unnecessary penalties, or rely upon unnecessary force. Immigration enforcement officers and border patrol agents should receive intensive training on appropriate enforcement tactics and the appropriate use of force. Border enforcement policies should not drive migrants to risk their lives or violate the due process rights of migrants. Because immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, the civil enforcement of immigration laws should remain in the hands of the federal government, not transferred further to local or state law enforcement authorities whose role is maintaining public safety and fighting crime.” (USCCB); (3) “In any enforcement action, the human rights and dignity of the person should be preserved and respected to the greatest extent possible.” (USCCB)

St. Paul tells us that “the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Gal. 5:14) We are able to carry out that commandment because we are first loved by God. God’s love of us empowers us to love one another. We do that as individuals and as an entire Church. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his encyclical ‘God is Love’, “today, as in the past, the Church as God’s family must be a place where help is given and received, and at the same time a place where people are also prepared to serve those outside her confines who are in need of help.”



**AMY GRAU**  
**CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF**

**Before teaching English to juniors and seniors in Brookfield, where were you before?**

I was an adjunct at Marquette University, and then left Marquette to go full-time with the Apostleship of Prayer. That is where I was the last four years, and then I started teaching again this fall.

**What is the Apostleship of Prayer?**

It's the official prayer group of the Pope. They're in every country around the world, and their duty is to spread the prayer intentions of the Pope and teach people different ways to pray. I was the director of Children's Ministry for the United States.

**You have five kids, and you are a writer, a teacher, a blogger ... How do you find the time to do that?**

I kind of have to do it. You know, when you're on fire, I was going to say you gotta run, but that makes you burn more. You are supposed to stop, drop and roll. I haven't figured that out yet. In fact, this year was my first time with two weeks of spring break, and I said to my husband as I'm vacuuming lamp shades and taking off air conditioner registers, "I guess I didn't realize that I get a little restless, and I can't really relax," and, he said, "You are just figuring that out!?"

**At one time you wanted to be a religious sister, but that your husband, David, ruined it.**

I think that he prevented me from ruining some convent is how we should put it. When I got to college campus ministry at Marquette, I realized I was serious about my faith. What you are supposed to do then? Become a priest or a nun. That's A+B, right? I came home for Christmas and told my family that I was going to be a nun, and it went over like a turd in the punch bowl - not that they didn't think it was great, but they just knew before I did that it wasn't for me. My younger brother said, "I'll bet you \$100 you're going to get married before you're 30." And I'm like, "No! Ok, I'll take that bet!" And, he actually made me pay him at my wedding reception.

**Tell me about the man who changed your mind.**

I was about to go on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in 1993, and had just started dating David. I thought he was different. He knew that he was supposed to be a dad, and was very serious about his faith. I never

## MY FAITH MINI-PROFILE:



### Grace Urbanski

**St. Mary's Visitation, Elm Grove**

**Grace Urbanski is a writer, teacher, musician and an energetic speaker in demand throughout the archdiocese and beyond. She and her family live in Wauwatosa, and are members of St. Mary's Visitation Parish in Elm Grove. Through her work, and in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation team focused on Evangelization and the Sunday Mass, Grace helps parents teach their children about the Mass, offering families guidance in deepening their relationship with God.**

remembered anyone saying that if you are really serious about your faith, and on fire for Jesus, you can be a good parent. It was eye opening that he knew that God had a plan for him, and that his plan was to be a dad. So, I went on this pilgrimage to Denver, praying if I should

keep dating this guy, because he is wreaking havoc with my original plan. And yes, I heard loud and clear that I should keep dating him.

**You sing?**

One of my favorite things to do lately is concerts with Sister Mary Jane Wagner, S.S.S.F., at the St. Joseph Chapel, where the Franciscans are. I used to be in the Symphony chorus and taught voice lessons.

**To balance that out, you play basketball.**

I am a huge basketball fan. There is a squad of women who play at Brookfield Academy. Singing, basketball, I love all of these things. If I ever had to do just one forever, I'd probably ... I don't know, I need all of them.

**What dish are you definitely making at home for when you know your mom is cooking?**

Her Irish Lasagna. It's really just regular lasagna, but because she is the first non-Italian to marry into the Italian family, she likes to make sure that everyone remembers she is not Italian.

**What dish would your kids be sure to make it home for at your house?**

When I am reheating what my husband cooked, then they will make it home. I used to do it all, and then we started sharing it. We had a meeting and I said, "You know, let's just figure out what our strengths are. Your strength is cooking."

**What is your favorite prayer or Scripture?**

My favorite prayer is the Morning Offering, and my favorite Scripture is what tipped me over the scales to get married. John 14:23. "If you love me we will come to you, and we will make a home in you." I thought, "Not only does Christ make a home in me, but he meant for me to make a home for other people." So, that's what did it.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

My mom has probably given me the funniest pieces of advice. Her mom always told her, "Always wear clean underwear." More serious good advice was from my dear friend, Fr. Will Prospero, who died a couple of years ago: "Just talk about the love of Jesus. It doesn't make all the problems go away, but it slaps you in the face a little bit."



# First Communion

## A Deeper Meaning of Eucharist

DR. KATHIE AMIDEI  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Do you remember the first time you laid eyes on your child? The first smile? The first step? The first word? No doubt you do, but your child isn't likely to remember. At our First Communion Retreat day, there is a promise I make to children. "You will remember your First Communion Day for the rest of your life." I ask the parents, "Do you remember your First Communion?" Heads nod and hands go up. Decades later, I remember being nervous, and the white cake my aunt made with silver candy on the top in the shape of a rosary. I remember my white shoes. I remember knowing this clearly was a big deal.

The deeper meaning of Eucharist is something we grow into, and is a bigger deal than the day itself, however wonderful it is.

How can we take in the beauty, power and awesomeness of Eucharist? It can only happen over time. It is enough on that special day to know this nourishes the love between our child and God.

The Eucharist is a Sacrament of Initiation and First Communion is another step in the walk of a Catholic. We become part of the Christian family at Baptism, and now our child is old enough to join us at Mass and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We believe they have enough understanding to celebrate what Jesus did for us through his death and resurrection. In this, he gained forgiveness for our sins. He opened the way for us to eternal life. Eucharist is what Jesus told his followers to do to remember him.

Eucharist is the Sacrament that enables us to remember and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Since the beginning of Christianity, the Eucharist has been at the very heart of Catholic spiritual life. If church walls could talk, they would tell the story of those who came before us, kept the faith — and through the Mass, passed it on from generation to generation.

This is the ritual Christ gave us to hold



▲ Fr. Ricardo Martin of Sacred Heart Parish in Racine takes a selfie with his parish's First Communicants on April 30 after the blessed event.

us together. The Eucharist celebration has its roots in the Jewish Passover meal, when the Israelites remembered the Jewish families spared from the Pharaoh's wrath as Moses led the people out of Egypt. In Eucharist, we remember God's continued faithfulness in Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a meal of gratitude. In fact, that is what Eucharist means: Thanksgiving. It's a covenant meal renewing, again and again, God's promise to us to be our God, and for us to be God's people. Our family dinner roots us in food and love in the same way the Mass does as a family of faith.

Sometimes, as parents, we say one thing but we really mean another. When we say, "Brush your teeth," we mean "Learn good habits." When we say, "Be careful," we mean, "You're precious to me." "Hold my hand in parking lots," means, "We couldn't bear to live without you."

But, a message we hope to be very clear in bringing our children to their First Communion and sharing Mass together week after week is to say, "God loves you. I love you. In the Eucharist, God will always be with you."

*Dr. Kathie Amidei is a wife, mother, grandmother, and Pastoral Associate at St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Pewaukee, as well as a consultant for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.*

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# Soul of the City

## The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist: The Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

BR. SILAS HENDERSON, S.D.S.  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

“Communicating to political and business leaders, as well as the entire city of Milwaukee, that the church has a part to play in the life of the city and its residents.”

That was the goal of Bishop Michael Martin Henni, the first bishop of the newly created diocese of Milwaukee, when he purchased a plot of land for a new cathedral in 1844, choosing a site near the original courthouse, adjacent to what was then called “Courthouse Square” – today’s “Cathedral Square.” Bishop Henni believed that the new cathedral would serve as the “soul of the city,” with particular concern for the good of the whole community, especially the poor.

In the years since its establishment, the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist has remained an important symbol of the Church’s presence through years of blessings and trials, including the devastating fire which destroyed the building on January 29, 1935.

Parishioner James Anello remembers visiting the cathedral in 2006, at a time when he was looking for a new parish home. After attending Sunday Mass in other area churches, he made his way to the cathedral, recalling that, “From the moment I received an order of worship and a friendly hello from a minister of hospitality, I had the feeling that this was a warm, welcoming place.” Inspired by the quality of the liturgy, particularly the music, Anello also said that he was impressed by the diversity and openness of the parish community. “The entire experience was a spiritual positive for me, and I joined shortly after.”

During his years in the parish, Anello’s involvement has grown to include serving as a cantor and choir member, as well as a volunteer at the cathedral’s Open Door Café, a ministry which serves more than 600 meals each week to the poor and homeless. Reflecting on his years in the cathedral parish, Anello said, “My involvement has strengthened my faith in the way that it has challenged me by pointing out the myriad of issues the Gospel forces us to address.”

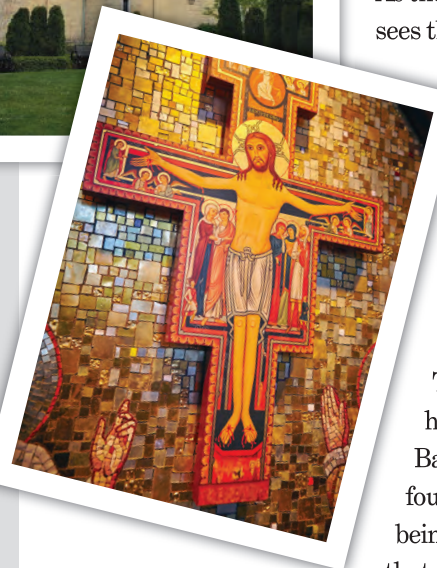
### FACTS

■ Milwaukee’s first cathedral was actually St. Peter’s Cathedral, located on the corner of State and Jackson streets, on land donated by one of Milwaukee’s founders, Solomon Juneau. You can still visit the original cathedral building at Old World Wisconsin.

■ Construction on the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist began in 1847, but took six years to complete. The cathedral was finally dedicated in 1853.

■ President John F. Kennedy attended Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on May 13, 1962. The cathedral, under heavy security, was filled beyond capacity. During that same Mass, 13 children received their first Holy Communion.

*Opposite page: The nave.  
Right: The exterior of the Cathedral,  
San Damiano Cross.*



This open spirit of service also inspired Pat Wisialowski to join the cathedral staff 13 years ago as pastoral associate. “But,” as she said, “I’ve known the cathedral my whole life. My grandparents belonged here and my dad was baptized here. I have a wonderful, strong emotional connect with the cathedral. My children were confirmed here, but I never thought I’d end up here as pastoral associate.”

Beyond the family connection, however, Wisialowski is also quick to point out the diversity of parishioners and their gifts that enrich the life of the community, noting that the cathedral truly represents the diversity of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. She sees this as a fundamental part of the cathedral’s mission and a gift for the local church.

As the “Mother Church” of the archdiocese, Wisialowski also sees the cathedral as an important point of contact with the history and tradition of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and with the Universal Church. “I love when, in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, we talk about the continuity of our faith and the thousands of years of Church history. But, then you think about how long the cathedral has been here, changes, fires ... but it keeps going strong. It’s such a strong connecting point between our past and our future.”

This sense of connection with the broader tradition and history of the church is of great importance to Michael Batcho, the cathedral’s director of music. He sees the parish’s four musical ensembles – including the Cathedral Choir – as being a vital part of the life and mission of the parish. Noting that the cathedral musicians include professional and skilled-

amateur singers and players from throughout the area, including non-Catholics, Batcho says that he believes they come to the cathedral for the history and for the style and quality of music for which the cathedral is known.

And yet, while Batcho notes that some might see the liturgical style of the cathedral as being formal or “high church,” he also recognizes that, precisely because it is a cathedral, St. John the Evangelist has a mission to uphold the tradition of the church, including the church’s commitment to beauty.

“People hunger for beauty and are drawn to it,” Batcho said. “And so, I like to approach my ministry as always striving to create beauty within the liturgy.” He sees this as part of



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## ► CATHEDRAL, FROM PAGE 13

the cathedral's commitment to evangelization and outreach. "We never know who's walking through the doors and what they're bringing. We never know how our art impacts the lives of people and the world."

The cathedral's Mission of Fine Arts programs, including a Wednesday Concert Series, are an expression to this commitment to evangelization through beauty. "There's a unique community, including our 'regular crowd,' most of whom are not parishioners. These are people who come to the cathedral solely for the musical experience. There have been times, however, when I see some of these same people at cathedral liturgies and other events hosted by the parish community." Recalling one encounter with a concert "regular," a downtown attorney, Batcho said that following one of the Wednesday concerts, "the man put a generous gift into my hand and said to me, 'I have no use for God or the Church, but I love coming into this space and listening to the music.'" This, Batcho believes, is a wonderful expression of how the music is a fundamental part of the cathedral's presence in the heart of the city.

Beyond the music program, however, the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist promotes the mission of the Church in other ways.

Bishop Jeff Haines, who has served as pastor and rector of the cathedral for six years, said that the sacraments that sustain the church "go out" from the cathedral, which is the site of key celebrations including ordinations, the Chrism Mass, and the Rite of the Elect. "The oils go out to the different parishes, the deacons out to their work among the poor in the community, the priests to their ministry."

In recent years, Bishop Haines noted, the idea of the cathedral as the "soul of the city" has guided decisions about how cathedral lands and facilities would be used. This inspired the pastoral staff and parishioners to expand cathedral ministries to include the Open Door Café, providing space for the Cathedral



▲ Fire devastated the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in 1935.

Center, a program housed in a former convent on the cathedral property, which offers shelter, job training and support to homeless women and families, and hosting Tenor High School, a charter school affiliated with Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Beyond these specific programs, Bishop Haines is also proud that the cathedral doors are always open to welcome friends and guests from the neighborhood, but also visitors from throughout Milwaukee and the archdiocese. "We try to be a quiet place in the hub of the city. It's amazing how often we'll come in and find people praying. You'll find people coming in after a significant event like 9/11, or who may be going through a personal crisis. This is a place they can come."

Summing up the mission and spirit of the cathedral, Bishop Haines said that, "While we are a parish, we exist to serve the rest of the archdiocese and the entire community. We're not just here for ourselves."

"Everyone has a place here," Bishop Haines concluded, "and that's the way we want it to be."

## IN 2016, THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST RECORDED:

- Registered Households: 976
- Registered Individuals: 1,920
- Infant Baptisms: 27; Child (13 months to age 6): 4; Adult: 1
- Marriages: 42
- Confirmation: 7





## Prayers for Priests

The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests (MPRP) is an international lay apostolate founded in 1990 to encourage people to pray and sacrifice for priests. This is a weekly calendar listing the name of a Milwaukee Archdiocesan priest for whom those who are interested in praying may offer prayers.

Friday, May 5  
**Fr. Thomas Suriano**

Saturday, May 6  
**Fr. Jeffrey Thielen**

Sunday, May 7  
**Fr. Donald Thimm**

Monday, May 8  
**Fr. Antony Primal Thomas**

Tuesday, May 9  
**Fr. Russell Tikalsky**

Wednesday, May 10  
**Fr. Robert Tino**

Thursday, May 11  
**Fr. Robert Turner**

For information about MPRP, call Anne Bender at (414) 328-1568 or visit [www.tinyurl.com/3a78y5r](http://www.tinyurl.com/3a78y5r).



## Bishops' Calendars

Among the bishops' public commitments for next week are the following:

### ● ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI

**Friday, May 5, 11:30 a.m.**  
Mass, First Friday Mass and Lunch with Central Office Staff, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

**Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Bruno and St. Paul parishes, St. Paul Parish, Genesee Depot

**Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Matthias Parish, Milwaukee

**Monday, May 8 — Wednesday, May 10**  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee Priest Assembly, Elkhart Lake

### ● BISHOP HAINES

**Friday, May 5, 7 p.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Cross, Belgium with Divine Savior, Fredonia and Our Lady of the Lake, Random Lake

**Sunday, May 7, 2 p.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, Divine Mercy, South Milwaukee

**Monday, May 8 — Wednesday, May 10**  
Spring Assembly, Elkhart Lake, WI

**Thursday, May 11, 6 p.m.**  
Bishops Circle Recruitment Dinner, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee

### ● BISHOP SCHUERMAN

**Friday, May 5, 7 p.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Charles, Hartland

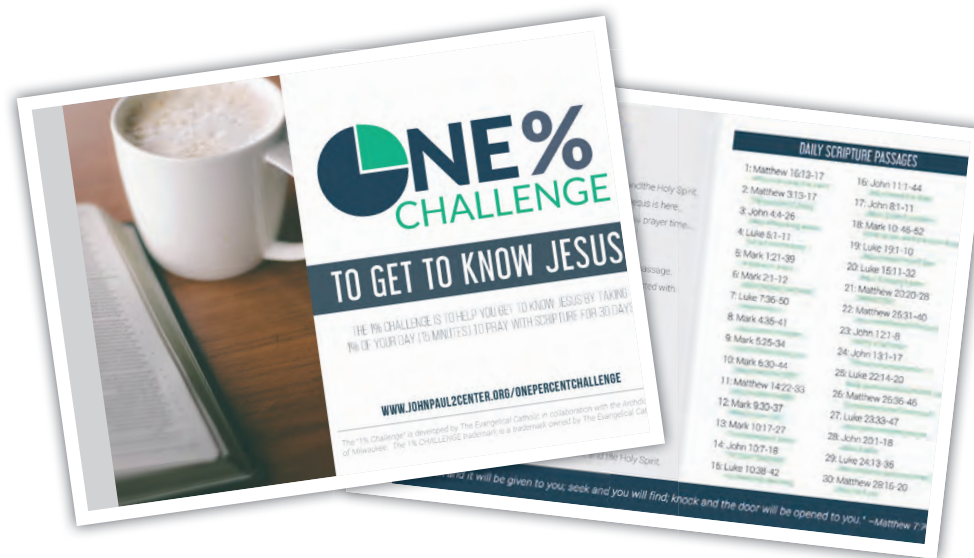
**Monday, May 8 — Wednesday, May 10**  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee Priest Assembly, Elkhart Lake

**Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, Holy Cross, Bristol with St. Alphonsus, New Muenster and St. John the Evangelist, Twin Lakes

**Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m.**  
Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Paul the Apostle, Racine with St. Rita, Racine and St. Louis, Caledonia

### ● BISHOP EMERITUS SKLBA

**Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m.**  
Mass, Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi, Clare Hall



# “1% Challenge” Supports Prayer Throughout the Year

BR. SILAS HENDERSON, S.D.S.  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

During the days of Lent this year, many area Catholics found themselves asking, “Can I offer God just one percent of my day?”

Andre Lesperance took a cue from Pope Benedict XVI, who reminded the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, that, “We must train people to read and meditate on the Word of God: This must become their staple diet.” Lesperance and his coworkers in the Madison-based Evangelical Catholic, an organization which trains Catholics for leadership in parishes and campus ministry programs, wanted to find a way to encourage Catholics to pick up their Bibles and to pray God’s Word. The idea of dedicating one percent — 15 minutes — of the day to prayer and reflection helped shape this initiative which was part of the Lenten observance of many parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The idea is simple: “Prioritize 15 minutes a day to sit at the feet of Jesus. For those not already in this habit, we know Jesus will change their lives for

“Can I offer God just one percent of my day?”

the better,” said Lesperance. And the collaboration between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Evangelical Catholic was a mutually enriching experience, according to Lesperance. “Together we identified the value of a 30-day component, so that the invitation was even more concrete and doable.

► CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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### ► 1%, FROM PAGE 15

We collaboratively selected the Gospel passages and designed cards, resulting in a tangible resource for spreading the challenge.”

For Fr. Kevin McManaman and the parishioners of St. Joseph in Big Bend, the 1% Challenge was an opportunity to reflect on how they offer their time to God as part of the parish’s annual stewardship campaign. “The idea was that time is a gift and we should offer

“In that Holy Writing you will find the life of Jesus, but you should also find your own life there.”

— St. Josemaria Escriva,  
The Forge, 754

some of our time back to the Lord in order to foster a deeper personal relationship with him,” Fr. McManaman said. “The 1% Challenge provided a great means to introduce a daily habit of prayer to our parishioners.”

By identifying passages from the Gospel, participants are invited to engage in the ancient prayer of lectio divina — sacred reading — for fifteen minutes. “I received many comments from parishioners who took up the challenge and many of them noted that forming a daily habit of prayer is challenging, but also a greatly appreciated the resource.”

Fr. Dennis Dirkx, pastor of Shorewood’s St. Robert and Holy Family in Whitefish Bay, said that his parishes used the 1% Challenge as an opportunity for evangelization and outreach.

“We used it for Advent as a way of preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ. In Lent we challenged those who did it during Advent to do the 1% Challenge with one other person during Lent,” Fr. Dirkx said. “If they did not do the 1% in Advent, we challenged them to do it during Lent. We add the 1/2% Challenge to the 1%. This is the amount of time it takes to go to confession. Parishioners were very open to it and especially older Catholic who normally don’t pray with Scripture.”

Understanding the importance of giving time to prayer inspired Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the leadership of All Saints and Saint Martin de Porres in Milwaukee to invite parishioners to include the 1% Challenge in all their parish ministries and programs. “In planning their 2017-2018 goals, the All Saints Church Evangelization and Formation Commission identified the 1% Challenge as a critical and meaningful way to support evangelization and formation initiatives,” said Sandra Melcher, the chair of the parish’s Evangelization and Formation Commission.

Having invited each ministry to promote the 1% Challenge throughout the year, Melcher is optimistic that the program will be a blessing for the parish.

“If participants find meaning in the 1% Challenge as much as they enjoy discussing the Scripture readings for each Sunday, the 1% Challenge at All Saints will prove to be another way to bring the Scriptures to life.”

To learn more about the 1% Challenge, visit [evangelicalcatholic.org/onepercent](http://evangelicalcatholic.org/onepercent).

## May Crowning Celebration

Our 37th Year  
Sunday, May 14, 2 p.m.



With Fr. Tim Kitzke

Sponsored by Roses for Our Lady  
[www.rosesforourlady.org](http://www.rosesforourlady.org)

Join Roses for Our Lady at the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine at 68th St. & Stevenson 2 blocks south of Bluemound Road for our annual outdoor Eucharistic Rosary Procession, May Crowning and Benediction. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on. In case of rain go to St. Vincent Pallotti, 201 N. 76th St. Organizations please bring your statues, banners & flags.



# Follow the Shepherd Who Cares

What is the oldest image of Jesus in Christian antiquity? The revulsion toward crucifixion, a degrading capital punishment by Roman authority, postponed for some 300 years acceptance of the cross as an appropriate symbol of the Nazarene.

You've probably seen a rendition of the image carved into catacomb walls where Christians met for Eucharist underneath the imperial city. Jesus the Good Shepherd (10: 11), holding a lost lamb safely on his shoulders (Lk 15:4-5), is the most ancient memory of him in Christian art.

As that basic sense of the faith moved artists long ago, so the same assurance has inspired variations of the theme into our own day. A print of my favorite original (by "KFB") hangs in my living room.

Christ's warm, tight hug shows a nail mark on the outside of his big left hand. His face is nearly covered, burrowed lovingly into a lamb's fur, much like you and I kiss our cherished pet. It's the lamb's face that stands out with such a peaceful look, eyes closed, the picture of contentment, resting securely on the chest of her trusted caregiver.

Scripture has been fulfilled. "It is accomplished" (Jn 19:30). All is well for any stray lamb means the world to the shepherd.

The apostle Peter preached this Gospel most credibly. He experienced the truth of KFB's etching. He himself sunk to the bottom of alienation from God through his vehement denials only hours after his first Communion! He strayed almost as far as Judas' treachery.

Yet the cock's crow struck a deep cord within the fisherman. He was moved to weep so sincerely, his heart gently opened to receive the healing power of divine mercy.

Peter never evangelized with mere words in worn out platitudes. He proclaimed Jesus both Lord and Christ from a gut



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

FR. JOHN YOCKEY

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Pt 2:20b-25

Jn 10:1-10

conviction that his friend was equal in glory with the Holy One of Israel, anointed to rescue each of us who gets lost and carry us affectionately back to his flock.

The head of the church at Rome was crucified in 67 AD upside down by request. A disciple who apprenticed with him circulated the First Letter of Peter toward the end of the century. He reveres the wounds of Jesus which make those who've been wayward whole again.

Not left to the deceptive illusion of self-sufficiency, but home now with the guardian of our souls, we should allow all that the shepherd has done for us to seep in. The more we honestly appreciate his amazing grace, the stronger our resolve to follow his example of selfless altruism.

John Chapter 9 details the fiery controversy sparked by Jesus' healing on the Sabbath of a man born blind. Chapter 10 spins off that major show down with Pharisaical leadership. Jesus uses shepherd imagery from Ezekiel 34 to contrast officialdom with himself. His arrogant enemies stay aloof from the ordinary lives of people they are called

to serve. They remain strangers locked into their insensitivity, thieves and bandits out to rip off the vulnerable to line their own pockets instead.

They stand behind moral rigors, taking a hard line to appear righteous before others. They ignore God's own revealed preference for mercy rather than ritual (Hosea 6:6). They lack his compassion to prioritize when values compete.

An empathetic response to a suffering person, lifting a heavy burden like blindness, praises the Lord of the Sabbath more fittingly than even observing his sacred command to rest.

Jesus is the genuine article. His authenticity resonates readily with the sheep of his care. Ezekiel had prophesied that one day God himself would shepherd his people in place of the false shepherds who harmfully abused them time after time throughout their history. Jesus, God incarnate, fulfills that promise.

In fact, he has become the gate for his sheep. He keeps tabs on the comings and goings of everyone in his flock. He calls each of us tenderly by name. He keeps watch at the entrance of the fold day and night to protect us from danger.

If we wander off and lose our way moving through life, who do you think will keep searching til he finds us and carries us home?

*Fr. Yockey is a senior priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.*

### FOR REFLECTION

- Are you led astray by false shepherds in our culture?
- What was it like when Jesus carried you on his shoulders?
- Who are lost sheep he asks you to help find and bring back?

## Quote of the Week

"Over time, you become a part of the family. Every family has its oddities, and what I've noticed is the longer I'm with a parish, the more I'm a part of the oddities as well."

— Fr. Phillip Bogacki, on *Two Guys and a Gospel*, reflecting on being a pastor



## Saint of the Week

**St. Damien De Veuster** of Moloka'i (January 3, 1840 – April 15, 1889)

Dedicating his life to working with those suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy) in Hawaii. He succumbed to the disease and died in 1889. We celebrate his Feast Day on May 10.



## Stat of the Week

# 579

Last year, parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee reported 174 adult baptisms (catechumens) with an additional 405 people received into full communion (candidates) - for a total of 579 converts to the Catholic faith.





▲ Lots of energy and smiles to share at Racine Catholic Schools. (Catholic Herald photos by Sarah Toepfer)

# Collaboration is the Key to Success

## Creating a System of Growth for Racine Catholic Schools

**COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ**  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

It was back in 2010 that newly-installed Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi visited Racine and invited the area's pastors to explore the idea of formally uniting their six Catholic schools under one system.

Later this month, he'll be receiving a proposal that outlines that very system - an as-yet-to-be-named collaboration of Racine's five Catholic elementary schools and St. Catherine's High School. It's an answer seven years in the making — but the story really gets its start decades earlier, in the living room of Louise Hamilton, a local parent and teacher at St. Patrick's School.

It was about the year 1960 that Hamilton and a few others invited all the Racine pastors to the Hamilton home to discuss the idea of a Catholic school system. It was a move, they argued, that would rejuvenate the schools' mission and bring some much-needed focus to their oversight.

Subsequent meetings ensued, but nothing really came of that effort, except for the implementation of advisory school boards.

"It became obvious that was about the best we were going to do," said Hamilton. "Some of the schools wanted to cooperate as a group, and some were against it ... getting the parishioners, the people who are supporting the schools involved, is a necessary thing."

In order for the system to work, it had to be the desire of everyone involved. And

all the key organizers agree: by 2010, the time for that truly grassroots effort had come. Though the request came from the archbishop, the proposal is the work of the stakeholders themselves — school parents and grandparents, faculty members, clergy and religious who represent the area's 1,600 Catholic students.

It was imperative from the start that a spirit of "shared ownership" be the driving force behind the project, said Brenda White, associate superintendent for Catholic schools. "There was significant input from the community, we got an amazing number of Racine Catholic leaders from the parishes involved on task forces," she said.

"We had parish trustees, we had business managers, we had pastors, we had principals, we had Racine

Dominican representation, we had lay volunteers," said governance committee member and board member at St. Catherine's, Heather Orth, the granddaughter of Louise Hamilton. "It was such a broad representation and a diversity of skills that people brought to each of those teams, and I think that that made our decision-making and our dialogue very rich and very fact-based."

Providentially, it was around the time of the archbishop's request in 2010 that the Racine Dominicans were facing a hard reality: they no longer had the resources to sponsor St. Catherine's, a middle and high school operated in Racine by the order for over 150 years. The order has been, in the words of finance task force chair, Dan Horton, "synonymous with Catholic education in Racine since the 1860s."



“The demographics and interests of religious congregations are changing dramatically across the country and having an impact on their ability to continue to sponsor and support Catholic high schools,” said Racine Dominican Sr. Chris Broslavick, who is also a member of the steering committee for the new school system. “We want to ensure the long-term presence of a Catholic high school in Racine.”

The Racine Dominicans did not want that to be the fate of St. Catherine’s, said Broslavick — and they also desperately wanted the school to remain a Catholic institution. After consulting with the archdiocese about possible options, the sisters agreed that the creation of a Catholic school system that could take on the responsibility of operating St. Catherine’s was a perfect solution.

“The question thereafter remained: how do we do this?” she said. The answer, as it turns out, was slowly, and with great patience. The work began with visioning sessions throughout the 10 parishes in 2011, and continued with three summits held throughout the years to inform the community of progress and continue gathering feedback.

“The key call back in 2010 was for collaboration. That word jumped out off the paper and out of the discussions,” said White. “But the fear ... was potentially losing their unique identity, their parish identity, their unique history, the culture of the school.”

The oldest of Racine’s Catholic schools, St. Patrick’s and St. Joseph’s, date to 1862.

It was helpful that the initiative represented a “growth model,” said Orth. Whereas the terms “collaboration” and “merger” are often code words for “downsizing” in contemporary Catholic lexicon, this was not so with the Racine school system.

### For information, visit [racinecatholicschools.org](http://racinecatholicschools.org)



“We’re not in this because we’re trying to save a school from closing. We’re talking about opening buildings and putting students in buildings that aren’t being used now,” she said. “I think people understand that we’re in this for positive outcomes in education, that Catholic education is going to grow in Racine, it’s not going to diminish or even hold steady.”

It is not anticipated that any staff positions will be eliminated.

To draft the guiding principles for the new system, the steering committee relied on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, released by Loyola University in 2012. The Finance Task Team also spent time meeting with other Catholic school systems in the state that had successfully implemented the national standards, including the Green Bay Area Catholic Schools (GRACE) and St. Mary

Springs Academy in Fond du Lac.

For the 2017/18 school year, not much will look different for the Catholic students of Racine. Pending the archbishop’s approval of the proposal, a two-tiered board of governance will be established that includes a lay board of directors as well as a board of trustees representing the pastoral leadership of all 10 area parishes and the Racine Dominicans. Three new positions will be created and filled — a president of system, director of schools and director of business.

“This next year is a transition year of getting the board in place and those three leadership positions in place,” said White. “The parishes are pretty much continuing to budget, to plan, and implement and run their schools much the same as they are now.”

“When things start to come up for the following year, those things will be discussed in a collaborative way,” said

Orth. “So when the budgets start to be presented or grants need to be applied for or anything needs to be done as a larger group, the schools wouldn’t necessarily do that by themselves - that becomes part of the system doing it together.”

“One of the promises that we made was that staff will not be cut,” said Broslavick. “If people will leave, it will be by their own choosing, because it will be a new way of operating and not everybody will be able to operate in a new way.”

For the parishes who do not currently operate a school, this system will represent a new ministry and expense, the committee acknowledges.

“One of the challenges moving forward will be to find a way to help those parishes feel that these schools are their school, because they won’t be physically located there,” said Horton. “Contributions will depend on size of parish and financial strength, in terms of assets and in terms of envelopes.”

But it’s an investment that the steering committee is confident parishes will agree is in their best interests. As Hamilton points out, many of the schools who were reluctant to collaborate back in 1960 have since closed their doors.

“This is not just about growing the system numerically, it’s about raising standards and helping students achieve more effectively,” said Kathleen Cepelka, Ph.D., superintendent of Catholic Schools. “There is no one way to create a system, and this system is Racine’s system. It’s reflective of the needs of the Racine community. This is empowering people for the purpose of advancing Catholic education, which essentially is the mission of the Church.”

*To learn more about the Racine Catholic schools collaboration, please visit: [racinecatholicschools.org](http://racinecatholicschools.org).*



# Colleges Spring Into Softball Season

CHRIS REISNER  
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

It's that time of year when the gloves are pulled out of storage and oiled up. Spring can mean only one thing — softball season.

## Marian

Out of the four college softball programs of the archdiocese in Milwaukee, Marian University boasts the best record standing at 24-14 on the season.

Tony Draves is currently serving his third year as head coach at Marian.

Draves brings a great deal of experience, serving as an assistant on the softball staff for 12 years. In his first season on staff, Marian won the 2003 Lake Michigan Conference title and qualified for the NCAA tournament. The following season, the Sabres won the 2004 regular season crown with a 10-2 league record.

Freshman Ally Fox and Gianna Esposito lead the team with .395 and .362 respective batting averages. Six players in total are hitting over .300 for the Sabres.

Marian finishes their regular season on Tuesday when they visit the Madison Edgewood Eagles.

## Cardinal Stritch

The Wolves of Cardinal Stritch University ended their regular season on Saturday with a record of 26-20.

Jenny Fuller is in just her second season as the coach of the Wolves. The former junior college standout and later Baylor alum has had a bit of a dip in success in her second season.

Last season Fuller led Cardinal Stritch to finish the season with a record of 30-



13 and a conference mark of 17-5. A mark that could not quite be duplicated this year.

Junior Outfielder Cindy Garces lead the team with a .397 batting average. At Second Base, Sophomore Carly Lange was close behind batting .380 on the year.

Cardinal Stritch Softball had become known for their deep lineup with all nine starters hitting over .300 on the season.

## Mount Mary

The Mount Mary Blue Angels softball team sits at 14-19 overall with just two games remaining in the season.

Mount Mary Softball Head Coach Tim Edwards is in his fourth season this year and says he is dedicated to building this program and a key to that is recruiting.

"My goal is to help keep the MMU softball program headed in the right



▲ Cardinal Stritch gets ready before a game. (Cardinal Stritch photo)

◀ Sarah Terrian of Marian University scores a run in the Sabres 8-1 victory against Ripon. (Marian University photo)

direction by aggressively recruiting student-athletes with the desire and commitment to achieve their future goals in the classroom as well as on the field," said Edwards.

Freshman duo Sidnee Turnage and Katie Arce lead the team in batting average, hitting .432 and .430 respectively.

The Blue Angels will take the field again on Wednesday where they square off in a road matchup against Wisconsin Lutheran.

## Alverno

Home of the Inferno, Alverno College has not quite had a blazing season as the softball team sits at just 12-24 on the year.

The team was able to beat Madison Edgewood on Friday which snapped a losing streak of eight consecutive games.

Ryan Konitzer is in his first year as the

head softball coach at Alverno. Konitzer, a recent Lawrence University assistant, is the Alverno softball program's fourth head coach since the program's inception in 2002. Konitzer has a recent history of improving his programs as well.

While at Lawrence, Konitzer coached the Vikings' infield and outfield defense, which had the second-highest fielding percentage (.965) in school history during the 2015 season. He also instructed the slap-hitters, which improved their batting average by over .120 in his two seasons with Lawrence.

Junior Ashley Rossi leads Alverno with a .356 batting average this season. Rossi is the only player to hit over the .300 mark for the Inferno this year.

The hope to end their season on a high note on Monday when they take on Rockford in a double-header on the road.



## ● FRIDAY, MAY 5

**Fish Fry**, St. Anthony, N74 W13604 Appleton Ave., Menomonee Falls, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. or until the nets are empty, takeouts too. Children 4 and under eat free.

**Fish Fry**, St. Florian, 1215 S. 45th St., West Milwaukee, 4:30 to 7 p.m., all-you-can-eat, baked cod, smelt, homemade clam chowder, takeouts, too. Children 3 and under eat free.

**Fish Fry**, St. James, 830 County Road NN East, Mukwonago, 4:30 to 7 p.m., baked cod, fried lake perch/walleye/shrimp dinner, chicken nuggets, takeouts available.

**Fish Fry**, St. Sebastian, 1740 N. 55th St., Milwaukee, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., all-you-can-eat fried or baked fish, chicken nugget meal, shrimp chowder, salad bar, takeouts, too.

**Fish Fry**, St. Veronica, 4001 S. Whitnall Ave., Milwaukee, 4 to 7 p.m., baked cod, takeouts available.

**Fish Fry**, St. Mary, 9520 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners, 4:30 to 7 p.m. or until sold out, baked and fried fish, fried shrimp, mac and cheese, takeouts, too.

**Fish Fry**, Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1121 S. 116th St., West Allis, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., baked and fried cod, shrimp, mac and cheese, takeouts too. Children 4 and under eat free.

**Healing service**, St. Francis, 1927 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee, 2 p.m., with confession at 1:30 p.m. Modeled after the healing service offered by Venerable Capuchin Fr. Solanus Casey.

**Mass with prayers for healing in honor of St. Peregrine (cancer saint)**, Blessed Sacrament, 3100 S. 41st St., Milwaukee, exposition of Blessed Sacrament 11 a.m. to noon; Benediction, noon; Mass 12:10 p.m.

**Meeting**, First Friday Club, Klemmer's Restaurant, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis, Mass 8 a.m., speaker and breakfast to follow.

**Bingo**, St. Andrew, 115 S. Seventh St., Delavan, 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. (262) 728-5922 or [www.standrews-delavan.org](http://www.standrews-delavan.org)

**Bilingual adoration**, St. Katharine Drexel, 511 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam, 8 to 9 p.m.

**Eucharistic adoration**, St. Jerome, 1001 S. Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During parish business hours, the general public is invited to come pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

## Eucharistic adoration

**Holy Hill**, 1525 Carmel Road, Hubertus, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Holy Trinity**, 521 Congress St., Newburg, following 8 a.m. Mass and ending with evening prayer at 7 p.m.

**Christ King**, 2604 N. Swan Blvd., Wauwatosa, following 8 a.m. Mass and ending with 1 p.m. Benediction.

## ● SATURDAY, MAY 6

**Caregivers support group**, Wheaton St. Francis Hospital, 3237 S. 16th St., Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

**Immaculate prayer group**, St. Anthony High School Chapel, 4807 S. Second St., Milwaukee, 10 a.m. Knights of the Immaculate (MI) prayer group for Marian consecration in the Franciscan tradition of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Kurt Keidl: (414) 810-0728.

**Mass for deaf or hard of hearing**, St. Joseph, 1619 Washington St., Grafton, 4 p.m. (interpreted)

**Mass for the deaf/hard of hearing**, St. Pius X, 2506 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. A hearing loop is provided for all Masses in church accessible by anyone with a hearing aid.

**Mass in Spanish**, St. John Paul II at St. John Kanty site, 966 W. Dakota St., Milwaukee, 5 p.m.

**Mass in Spanish**, St. John the Evangelist, 701 N. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes, 5:30 p.m.

**Resale Shop**, Christ Child Society, 4033 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Thrift shop**, St. Camillus, 10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., Wauwatosa, 10 a.m. to noon.

## ● SUNDAY, MAY 7

**Byzantine rite liturgy**, St. George of the Melkite Catholic Church, 1617 W. State St., Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m.

**Hmong Mass**, St. Michael, 1445 N. 24th St., Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m.

**Mass in Croatian**, Sacred Heart, 917 N. 49th St., Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m.

**Mass for the deaf/hard of hearing**, St. Andrew Parish, Delavan, 714 E. Walworth Ave. (interpreted), 9:30 a.m.

**Mass for the deaf/hard of hearing**, St. Paul the Apostle, 6400 Spring St., Racine. (interpreted), 10:30 a.m.

**Mass for the deaf/hard of hearing**, Shepherd of the Hills, W1562 County Road B, Eden, 8:15 a.m. (interpreted)

**Mass for the deaf/hard of hearing**, St. Pius X, 2506 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. A hearing loop is provided for all Masses in church accessible by anyone with a hearing aid.

**TV Mass**, Heart of the Nation, WCCV-TV Channel 24, 9 a.m., and WITI-TV Channel 6, 5:30 a.m. For Catholics unable to attend parish Mass because of illness, frailty, caregiving for loved ones, inclement weather or other grave circumstances. Online video: [www.heartofthenation.org](http://www.heartofthenation.org). Information: (414) 475-4700.

**Rosary for peace in the Middle East**, Holy Family, 4825 N. Wildwood, Whitefish Bay, 6 p.m.

**Special Dance for Special People**, Holy Apostles, 3875 S. 159th St., New Berlin, 1 to 3 p.m. A dance for developmentally disabled adults ages 16 and older, with music provided by Dalgren's DJ Service. Free refreshments and door prizes will be provided. Parents or legal guardians encouraged to attend as well. Baseball attire is optional. (262) 784-3968.

## ● MONDAY, MAY 8

**Alcoholics Anonymous men's group meeting**, St. Frances Cabrini lower level meeting room, 1025 S. Seventh Ave., West Bend, 7 to 8:30 p.m., every Monday.

**Eucharistic adoration**, St. James, 830 Highway NN East, Mukwonago, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

**Eucharistic adoration**, Holy Family, Parish Center Chapel, 4825 N. Wildwood Ave., Whitefish Bay, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Eucharistic adoration**, St. Jerome, 1001 S. Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During parish business hours, the general public is invited to come pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

## ● TUESDAY, MAY 9

**Grief support group**, This Common Ground of Grief, San Camillo, 10200 W. Blue Mound Road, Wauwatosa, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free and open to all suffering a loss.

**Perpetual adoration**, St. Jerome, 1001 S. Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During parish business hours, the general public is invited to come pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

## ● WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

**Cor Jesu**, St. Robert, 2200 E. Capitol Drive, Shorewood, 7 to 9 p.m., prayer with music, silence, reconciliation, 8 p.m. Mass, followed by social in the parking lot.

**Family prayer group**, Carmelite Monastery, W26 N2517, Pewaukee, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Eucharistic adoration with rosary, chaplet, and eucharistic healing procession.

**Concert**, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., featuring Kevin Bailey, organist. Suggested donation: \$3. Michael Batcho: (414) 276-9814, ext. 305.

**Prayer group**, chapel, St. Gregory the Great, 3160 S. 63rd St., Milwaukee, 7 p.m. Donna: (414) 545-1774, [www.directionforourtimes.com](http://www.directionforourtimes.com).

**Eucharistic adoration**, St. Jerome, 1001 S. Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During parish business hours, the general public is invited to come pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

## ● THURSDAY, MAY 11

**Eucharistic adoration**, St. Jerome, 1001 S. Silver Lake St., Oconomowoc, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During parish business hours, the general public is invited to come pray before the Blessed Sacrament.



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◀ Honored for their accomplishments in making their schools better communities are 13 area Catholic school students. Gesu Pastor Fr. Jim Flaherty (top left) and Fr. Tom Manahan of Marquette High (top right) presented the awards named after the late Gesu pastor, Fr. Purcell.



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#### MUSIC COORDINATOR JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. Mary of the Hill, a faith community of 500 families in Hubertus, WI seeks a person to assist the pastor in leading the Parish into a fuller share in the risen life of Christ through the ministry of music in our Parish. The best person would have training in music, strong/competent voice, organ, piano or guitar skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgy and traditions, and a desire to praise God through music. Must be able to work effectively with others as well as have strong organizational and interpersonal skills. This is a part-time (10 hours a week) 12 months a year position. Please send resumé to [secretary@stmaryhh.org](mailto:secretary@stmaryhh.org).

To place an ad, call 414-769-3472  
or email: [catholicerald@archmil.org](mailto:catholicerald@archmil.org)

### HELP WANTED

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St. Mary of the Hill Parish, a faith community of 500 families in Hubertus, WI seeks a dynamic, enthusiastic faith filled part-time Youth Minister to join our staff. The best person will possess a servant's heart, retreat planning and mission trip experience, flexibility, strong communication and organizational skills. Please send resumé to [secretary@stmaryhh.org](mailto:secretary@stmaryhh.org).

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# It's Bach and Beaumont at St. Hedwig Recitals

Organist Karen Beaumont doesn't have a favorite composer, or even a favorite genre of music to perform. The instrument's repertoire is simply too dense — it would be an impossible choice to make. "That's the great thing about organ," she said. "I have 900 years of music to play!"

Beaumont will be offering audiences some of the choicest selections from those nine centuries of song at her annual summer concert series, starting June 25 at St. Hedwig Catholic Church, 1702 N. Humboldt St., Milwaukee. Subsequent performances are July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 and Oct. 1. All concerts begin at 2 p.m.

“That's the great thing about an organ. I have 900 years of music to play!”

The first and second programs will feature the music of Bach, while the Aug. 20 concert will offer a mix of German Baroque and 20th century works by Bruns, Scheidemann and Hindemith. The Sept. 17 performance will feature dance music for the organ, and the Oct. concert will feature the music of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Admission is free, but donations of nonperishable food items will be accepted for the Riverwest Food Pantry on Sept. 17, and free will donations to benefit the Secular Order of the Franciscans will be accepted on Oct. 1. It's the third year Beaumont has done



▲ Organist Karen Beaumont

the series, which she describes as “a nice neighborhood event” that showcases the “special combination” that is the church's 2010 Holtkamp organ and the “warm” acoustics of the worship space.

“I've played all over North America,” she said. “And this instrument and room are a special combination.”

For more information on Karen Beaumont, visit [karenbeaumontorganist.mysite.com](http://karenbeaumontorganist.mysite.com).



# FR. LUKE STRAND

Fr. Luke Strand was ordained to the priesthood in May 2009, and currently serves as Vice Rector of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary and Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

JERRY TOPCZEWSKI  
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

## When did you decide “Ok, I want to be a priest”?

I decided the end of my junior year of college. The exact date was June 2, 2002.

## You remember it?

It was the Feast of Corpus Christi. I was at my parents’ house. I was walking in the woods. I had spent months discerning and it hit me: “Luke, if you don’t try this, who is going to?” I loved the Lord, I loved the Church, I was invested in my faith. And so I said, “I’m going to apply (to the Seminary) and see what happens.”

## How did you tell your family?

It was fall of my senior year (of college). I came home from (UW) Oshkosh to visit my folks. We went out for dinner and we were having a beer. I told them “I think I’m going to the seminary.” They were completely shocked. Parents want their kids to be happy. This was not a convenient time to be discerning Priesthood. It was the height of the (sexual abuse) scandal, so they raised a lot of questions concerning whether or not this was the right time.

## You have two brothers who are priests.

I was first.

## So was it a little harder?

It was hard when I told them. It was even more difficult when Vince told them and it was much, more difficult when Jacob told them. You just don’t expect three priests from one family.

## You’re active. What do you like to do?

I have two 17.5 foot sea kayaks and I love taking them out on Lake Michigan in the summer. I run regularly, so I really enjoy that.

## How does that intersect with your priesthood?

I think that it’s an encounter with beauty. All of us need to find places where we encounter beauty.

## As a seminarian you traveled to Rome.

When we went to Rome it was the first time I was on an airplane. I am deeply imbedded in my home parish (St. Bruno, Dousman). My Great, Great, Great Grandfather donated the land for the original church and cemetery. So, I had this deep rootedness in the particular Church. Going to Rome and having an encounter with the Church Universal blew my mind.

## When celebrating the sacraments, do you ever sit back and say, “How did you entrust me with this responsibility?”

All the time! People invite you into their lives. And you’re like, “who am I?” I haven’t had all the life experiences that you need to have in order to speak to what this person is dealing with. People come to the priest because they’re looking for God. They’re

trying to find where the Lord is in the midst of the joy and in the midst of the mess. So all the time you’re humbled by that reality.

## In the morning... coffee?

In the morning, wake up at 5 a.m. Head right downstairs and have coffee and a bowl of cereal. And then holy hour at 5:45.

## What’s on your playlist?

Joe Zambon, who is a Catholic musician from Toronto. I’m obsessed with his music. Josh Garrels, who doesn’t label himself a Christian artist, but his music is just infused with virtue.

## So you’d be lost at the Grammy’s?

I’d be lost at the Grammy’s. But I do like Zac Brown Band a lot. I heard them last year at Alpine Valley.

## What about your guilty pleasure?

I don’t want to put it in here ... but I do enjoy having a beer. I love investigating all the microbreweries.

## Do you have a favorite prayer that you turn to?

I love the Kenotic hymn from the second chapter of St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians, that, ‘Jesus ... did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself.’ So I pray that regularly.

## A favorite devotion?

I pray the rosary every day. I love the Sacred Heart, but my strongest devotion is to the Holy Eucharist.

## You had your own battle with cancer. How has it shaped your ministry?

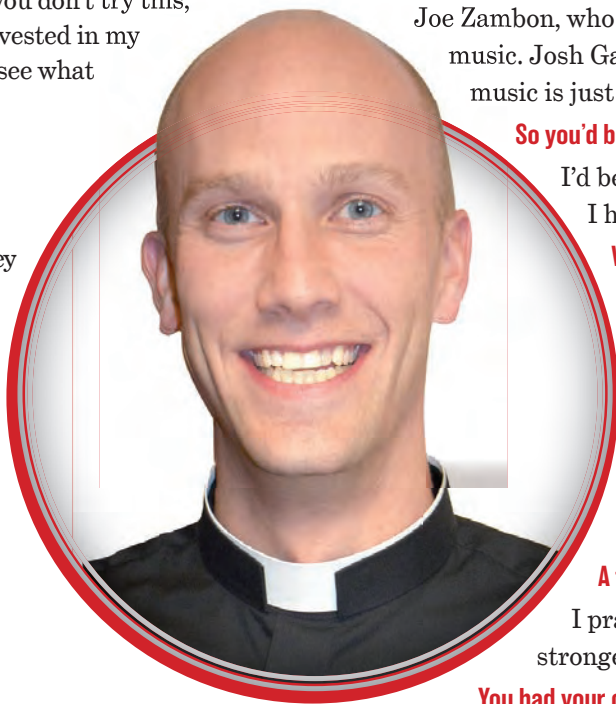
It’s changed a lot in my life. I realize that the Lord’s love for me is not contingent on my ability to be successful or reliant on the activity that I do because for week after week after week, I couldn’t get out of bed. Somehow you have to come to grips with the Lord’s presence in your soul and how his love is there even though you are not functioning at a high level as an active priest. I’m still dealing with a lot of the after effects of five surgeries and 12 rounds of chemo. I look healthy now and I feel healthy, but it’s still a challenge every day.

## Did it open a different aspect of your ministry?

Many people with cancer have been drawn to me and it has been a gift to walk with them. When people suffer physically, it’s amazing how it gives others permission to open up their sufferings as well, whether physical, emotional, or relational. Suddenly they don’t have to white wash everything and pretend like it is perfect.

## Favorite Scripture quote?

I also love the calling of the tax collector, St. Matthew — the Lord never calls us when we are prepared.





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