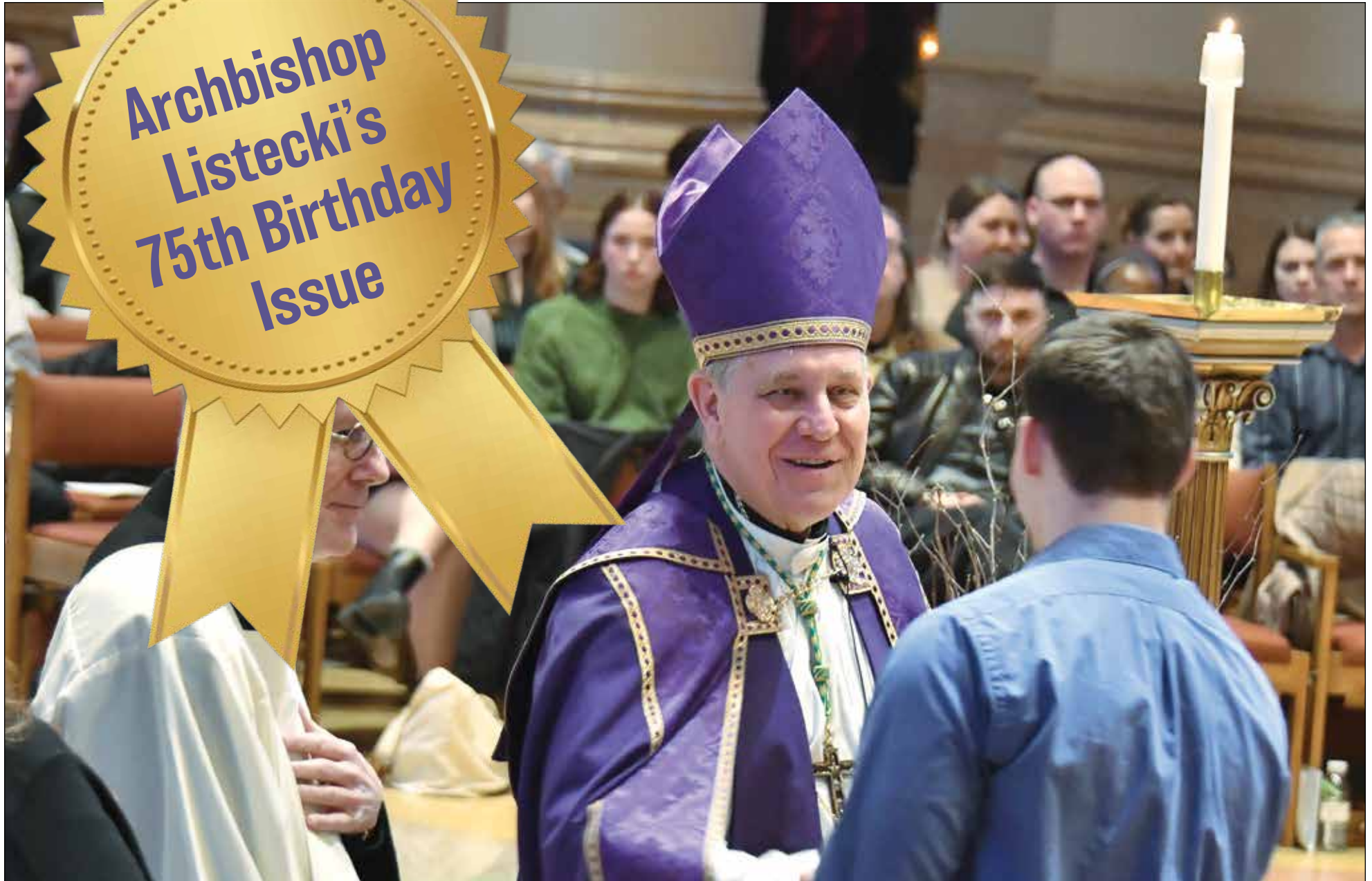


CATHOLIC HERALD

Archbishop
Listeck's
75th Birthday
Issue



▲ In this issue, we celebrate the 75th birthday of Archbishop Jerome E. Listeck, shown at the Rite of Election on Feb. 18 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. (Photo by David Bernacchi).

12 Hours Returns

Popular Lenten Reconciliation opportunity is March 20.

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Role Change

A look at the process for replacing an archbishop.

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A Vision for the Church's Future

There is the saying that hindsight is always 20/20. Obviously, when looking back, one easily sees what one should have done, might have done, or avoided. I will comply with the Code of Canon Law 401:1, "A diocesan bishop who has completed his 75th year of age is requested to present his resignation from office to the Supreme Pontiff, who will make provisions after he has examined all the circumstance." On March 12, I will submit my letter of resignation to Pope Francis. I then will await the pope's direction and his selection of my replacement.

There is a tendency to look back and linger on the various moments of the past 14 years — moments filled with anxious anticipation, faith-filled challenges and spiritual growth for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and her faithful. However, sometimes we can get lost in the past. Although I affirm the statement of George Santayana (1905): "Those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it." We must never forget where we have come from, how we got here and those who have sacrificed for us.

Nevertheless, at this point of my tenure as the shepherd of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, I would rather dwell on the vision for the future. My future vision may not be 20/20, but it contains the possibility of what might occur when we embrace the teachings of the Church, a commitment to Jesus and a firm practice of the faith. I have often stated that my greatest surprise when I arrived in the archdiocese 14 years ago was the deep level of faith that existed in the lives of so many individuals here — a common shared goal of holiness. So, my future vision is a direction toward the "beatific vision" when past and future give way to the everlasting "now."

The future builds on the past and the future vision finds its roots in the current accomplishments of our archdiocese. Our Saint Francis de Sales Seminary



HERALD of HOPE
ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI

is thriving and growing. The people of the archdiocese love and respect their priests, and they are greatly impressed with the young priests being produced by the seminary and currently serving their needs. The witness of these newly ordained has affirmed a confidence in the faith. As these young priests mature in their priesthood and engage in a collaborative service with the People of God, I can envision a future that will produce a strong foundation for the Church.

Our permanent deacons grow in numbers, and they continue to expand their areas of service. I can envision a future where the office of the deacons will assist in expanding the areas of evangelization through their presence. With an archdiocesan commitment to the vocations of religious women, I can envision a true growth and complementarity in the service of the Church as young women discern their lives in commitment to parishes, schools and contemplative prayer. The future witness of women religious will present that "feminine" element so necessary for a complete ecclesial family. Professionally trained lay ministers will assist congregations in the support necessary for growth and their attention to religious education, parish business management and liturgy will provide an opportunity to strategize how we can fulfill the Church shifting from a

maintenance mentality to a mission mentality, calling people to embrace the Church. I envision a future of growth reaching out calling souls to Christ and inviting them to become members of his Church.

Catholic education in the archdiocese has always been creative and innovative. But in the last decade, a new energy has emerged. Although we will always need a strong religious education program (what used to be referred to as CCD) in our parishes for the sake of our children, there is nothing that can substitute the presence of students in the classroom on a day-to-day basis. The rich formation that our students receive in our schools prepares them to live a faith-filled life. Our strong Catholic schools will provide a foundation for the future. Collaborative efforts in various deaneries have aided parishes in stabilizing the problems of shifting demographics and spiraling costs. Our Seton Schools are an example of a program that serves the most economically vulnerable. There is no denying the success academically and developmentally. I can envision the Catholic schools of Milwaukee being a model for other dioceses; while some dioceses may seek to close schools, we will continue to expand, seeking to establish new schools and prepare for growth.

Catholic Charities of the archdiocese fulfills the responsibility we have as Christians to aid our brothers and sisters in need. Matthew 25 says, "Lord when did I see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine you did for me." Catholic Charities has developed significant relationships with our parishes as well as Catholic charitable organizations throughout the 10 counties of the archdiocese. Together, they collaborate and coordinate in the best use of resources in order to provide

► READ MORE PAGE 54

Fr. Klusman Receives National Honor

LARRY HANSON
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Fr. Christopher Klusman's trademark big smile and double thumbs up were on full display the evening of Saturday, Feb. 17, at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Milwaukee.

Fr. Klusman was awarded the Reverend Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year Award for his outstanding service to the Catholic Deaf and hard of hearing community, which was awarded by the National Catholic Office for the Deaf.

"I kept telling everyone that it was a dream come true," Fr. Klusman said. "I kept wondering (over and over) if it was a dream or not, as I kept pinching myself on the arm. It truly meant so much to me in so many ways, more than words could ever express."

Minette Sternke, the newly elected President of the NCOD, said, "In selecting Fr. Klusman for this award, the board made note of the fact that he is a 'kind and tender-hearted priest,' and his significant involvement in many things related to Deaf ministry. His nominators noted that his retreats and workshops are particularly spiritually rewarding. Most of all, he has been a tremendous channel of God's peace and healing to the Deaf community in Milwaukee. His humble nature and actions, and his constant prioritization of the Deaf community over his own needs, speak so well to his leadership within Catholic Deaf ministry."

Some of the activities and projects the NCOD noted were the ASL YouCat project with the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, young adult groups, men's groups, Deaf Cursillo and the International Catholic Deaf Association. They also noted his organization of trips to Steubenville with Deaf youth, catechesis programs such as liturgical



▲ Fr. Christopher Klusman, one of five deaf priests in the United States, was named the Reverend Walsh Pastoral Worker of the Year by the National Catholic Office for the Deaf. He received the award from Minette Sternke, the newly elected President of the NCOD. (Photo by Rachel Uchytill)

signs and Mariology, and support for interpreters.

Fr. Klusman provides regular retreat days and prayer opportunities to the Deaf Catholic community in Milwaukee, and also regularly travels up to Green Bay to provide for the pastoral needs of

the Deaf community in that area. He is also willing to travel to other areas in the country to provide retreats when his time allows. His involvement in the ASL YouCat and other projects has provided additional catechesis resources for the Deaf community that can be used

throughout the U.S. and internationally. He is very well known within the Deaf Catholic community through his involvement with NCOD and is a sought-after retreat leader.

The NCOD annual conference was held in early February in Houston, but Fr. Klusman wasn't able to attend. He appeared on a big screen via Zoom at the conference to share his gratitude. Fr. Shawn Carey, a deaf priest for the Archdiocese of Boston, who is also on the NCOD Board, gave the introduction for the award.

"It was a special memory that I'll keep close in my heart," Fr. Klusman said.

A couple of weeks later, Sternke braved snowy conditions and drove up from Champaign, Illinois, to present the award in person.

"I mentioned how generous and kind it was of her to take the time to make the long trip," Fr. Klusman said.

At present, there are five deaf priests in the U.S. There is one deaf man in seminary who will be ordained a transitional deacon in May 2024. Sternke also said there are a number of hearing priests who are fluent in ASL who minister to the Deaf community. There are three deaf permanent deacons in the US.

"Our community is constantly praying for an increase in vocations within the Deaf community," Sternke said. "Given the amount of formation necessary to ordain priests, we also pray for an increase in hearing priests/seminarians who are willing to learn ASL and minister to the community."

The National Catholic Office for the Deaf was founded by the Rev. David Walsh in 1971 to strengthen pastoral ministry to Catholics who are deaf or hard of hearing.

12 Hours of Reconciliation set for March 20

LARRY HANSON
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

One of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's most popular Lenten activities is returning for its fifth iteration.

Pray, Reconcile and Rejoice: 12 Hours of Reconciliation will be at 11 parishes throughout the archdiocese, including 10 offering confession in Spanish, on Wednesday, March 20.

Born during the planning for the archdiocese's 175th anniversary celebrations in 2018-19, the event was first held in 2019. Other than the COVID-19 year of 2020 (in which the event was canceled one week ahead of time), the event has been held every year since.

"I met with many different groups to gather ideas for how to celebrate," said Jenni Oliva, the Director of Archdiocesan Events and Special Projects. "I met with the deans of our deaneries, and we talked about what kind of prayer/sacramental elements we wanted to do. From that meeting Pray, Reconcile, Rejoice was born. It was also decided at that meeting that we would host this sacramental event later in Lent — the Wednesday before Palm Sunday was decided as a good date. In the initial planning I think we were just looking for unique ways to celebrate the 175th anniversary."

The event has proven very popular with priests and parishioners alike.

"In 2019, we had such an overwhelming response to this sacramental event we never thought about not doing it again," Oliva said.

Over the years, it has become easier to recruit priests to hear confessions.

"We announce the upcoming date

about 11 months in advance," Oliva said. "It has also helped that we have tried to stick with the same day — the Wednesday before Palm Sunday."

The convenience of having so many locations open for so many hours has proven beneficial to many Catholics, bringing them back to the sacrament, often after many years away.

"The priest is there to help you feel God's love and mercy, and that's nothing to be afraid of," said Fr. Mike Wolfe.

Priests are understanding of the fact some Catholics haven't partaken of Reconciliation in a long time, and are there to make you feel welcome, including Fr. Rick Stoffel.

"I know people who haven't seen some friends or even family members for extended periods of time; the longer

they put it off, the harder it gets. The easiest time to reconnect with Jesus in the sacrament of Reconciliation is always now, not later," Fr. Stoffel said.

"Sometimes we lose track of an old friend," said Fr. Dennis Saran. "When we reconnect, we find out just how much they missed us. Jesus misses you, come and talk to him."

Fr. John LoCoco reminds Catholics they don't have to feel completely ready to experience the sacramental grace of Reconciliation.

"Just come back. Don't worry about preparing everything. I will help walk you through it, one commandment at a time," Fr. LoCoco said.

For Oliva, seeing the success and growth of the event has been very rewarding.

"Of all the wonderful events and special projects I get to oversee and execute for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, I think that Pray, Reconcile and Rejoice: 12 Hours of Reconciliation is one of the most important that I do each year," Oliva said. "It is a joy to be able to offer the sacrament in an accessible way."

Times and Locations

- **Basilica of St. Josaphat**, 601 W. Lincoln Ave., Milwaukee, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Holy Family Parish**, 271 Fourth Street Way, Fond du Lac, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 8 p.m.
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, 5400 19th Ave., Kenosha, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 6 p.m.
- **St. Charles Borromeo Parish**, 441 Conkey St., Burlington, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 8 p.m.
- **St. Dominic Parish**, 18255 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 6 p.m.
- **St. James Parish**, 830 E. Veterans Way, Mukwonago, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 10 a.m. to noon
- **St. Lucy Parish**, 3101 Drexel Ave., Racine, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **St. Margaret Mary Parish**, 3970 N. 92nd St., Milwaukee, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 6 p.m.
- **St. Matthias Parish**, 9306 W. Beloit Road, Milwaukee, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **St. Monica Parish**, 5681 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Spanish from 4 to 8 p.m.
- **St. Peter Parish**, 200 E. Washington St., Slinger, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; English only



Accessibility is Goal of Digitizing Archdiocese History

BY KATHLEEN MCGILLIS DRAYNA
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

When Milwaukee's first Catholic leader, Archbishop John Martin Henni, communicated with people in the mid-1800s, he spoke to them directly or wrote letters, homilies or speeches.

You can find his documents — handwritten, primarily in German — on paper in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Archives.

More than 175 years later, the archdiocese's 11th archbishop, the Most Rev. Jerome Listecki, serves as our spiritual leader using many modern means.

In a typical week, he writes his personal Love One Another email letter that is sent to about 10,000 people, releases his encouraging The Good News short video and hosts the 30-minute Living Our Faith radio show.

In other examples that barely scratch the surface of his communications, Archbishop Listecki often also writes letters sent to all parishioners of the archdiocese, gives homilies, speaks at many events and is a rotating columnist for the Catholic Herald.

Thus, the archivist has a greater challenge to capture a history of Catholicism as it is lived in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in this day and age.

On top of the varied means of communication, rapid changes in technology mean that even a letter created in Microsoft Word today likely will be incompatible with Word just a decade or two from now.

An effort to digitize important archdiocesan records and images has barely made a dent, but it is hoped this will ultimately make some first-hand records more widely available online.

“Our goal is not to digitize everything,” said Shelly Taylor, Director of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office of Archives and Records Management. The present archives collection occupies about 4,500 cubic feet. One cubic foot is about the size of the storage box known as a banker's box. “We're prioritizing what we do because not everything needs to be digitized.”

Taylor's office collects, preserves, organizes and makes available for research many, many types of records.

There are five major areas of archive collections: corporate administrative documents going back to



▲ Shelly Taylor, Director of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office of Archives and Records Management at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center in St. Francis, displays some special editions of the Catholic Herald from the archives' holdings. (Photo by Kathleen McGillis Drayna)

the founding of the archdiocese; historic records of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary; records of various Catholic entities, such as the Milwaukee Council of Catholic Women; records of Catholic individuals such as archbishops and bishops; and records of closed and merged parishes. Canon law calls for active parishes to keep their own archives.

Digitizing images began on a small-scale basis around 2006 with a scanner, with perhaps one or two records being scanned in order to email them to someone. Over time, the scanning process has become easier, and fees charged for this service has helped fund updates.

Digitizing photographs became an urgent need about 10 years ago, several years before the 175th anniversary of the archdiocese in 2018. Taylor and Associate Director Amy Lisinski knew access to many, many old photos would be needed for this yearlong celebration,

and these records would need to be searchable.

This is best achieved with digital images of records that can include detailed metadata. Metadata is not the information contained within the image, but data about the image itself. It is key words tied to individual images regarding the who, what, when and where of whatever was in the picture, as well as a title, creator, publisher, format, identifier, source and “rights,” such as copyright information or permission needed.

However, it might take 10 to 15 minutes to create a high-quality scan of just one photo and add information about it in the metadata fields, Taylor said. While interns have been able to assist with this, an experienced person can do this much more quickly than an intern who does not have a lot of institutional knowledge of the archdiocese as part of their background.

Everything, starting with the name of the image, needs to be consistent with the names of other like records. For example, every record of a particular parish needs to express the name of the parish in exactly the same way in order for all to be consistently searchable. And every record related to a parish needs to include data in a like way so a search for information about parishes in general captures as much of it as possible.

The archivists dream of when some of the materials could be used more widely in Catholic school curriculum on state history in fourth grade and U.S. history in eighth grade.

Taylor noted that digitization is one small thing that is part of the archive's responsibilities.

Taylor, who is part time, and Lisinski, who is full time, are the office's only two employees. In addition to maintaining the archives, they answer questions for anyone who contacts the office. A recent day brought in requests regarding the history of the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary coat of arms, the St. Vincent de Paul Society here, class reunions and a parish certificate of occupancy.

Simple requests take just a few minutes to answer, while others may require a lot of research. The most common request is for sacramental records from one of the 100 merged or closed parishes. About 800 such requests came in last year from people requesting their own records, while another 400 were for records from prior to 1920 available for genealogy purposes.

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Singers Needed for Inspire Concert

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Know the difference between a fermata and a whole note? Or perhaps melisma, modulation and motif?

If these terms strike a familiar chord, St. Margaret Mary could use your voice for an upcoming concert. There is no need to have perfect pitch or even an effective falsetto. Concert organizer and Director Kurt Bardele is interested in all vocal ranges for the second parish “Inspire” concert. He welcomes singers with fond memories or dreams of performing in a choir who may not have had time to fit in a long-term commitment.

The concert will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at St. Margaret Mary Parish, 3970 N. 92nd St., Milwaukee. Interested singers need to be able to read music and commit to 10 evening rehearsals between April 2 and May 30. There will be no auditions and music will be available two weeks before the first rehearsal.

Last year’s inaugural concert consisted of 23 singers and five instrumentalists. One of the singers also played guitar, said Bardele, who added there was a lot of interest in participating.

“Some singers discovered their voices and skills had changed since they were in a choir last, and some weren’t able to devote the necessary time. We wound up with singers from at least 10 different Christian communities,” Bardele said. “From attendees, a lot of people were curious as the week approached. Parishes may present plays and concerts, but I believe that advertising the songs’ familiarity surprised and enticed many. I’ve found that most of us have a song or hymn we hold deeply dear, reminding us of a sweet or sad moment.”

Bardele said last year’s concert turned



▲ The second “Inspire” concert will happen June 2 at St. Margaret Mary Parish. Organizers are looking for singers. (Submitted photo)

out surprisingly well and it was the best they had done in any previous rehearsal. They felt the Holy Spirit rise through the group, which moved them to a new place that day. The audience was much larger than expected.

“Following the 75-minute concert, we had a simple reception in the church hall. It felt like almost everyone attended (it) and loudly shared their enthusiasm for what they had just experienced. It was gratifying to meet so many from outside the parish,” Bardele said. “The student singers, families and teachers enjoyed the experience, too, but probably for different reasons. I could feel their pride in their accomplishment and hard work.”

For the June concert, Bardele is looking for a choir of around 30 singers. He has some returning, but not enough. Some of the previous singers have health and scheduling conflicts, so he is hoping for interest from the greater Milwaukee area.

Bardele is a self-employed singer, actor,

coach, producer and project facilitator, and worked in Minneapolis and New York City. He decided to create the “Inspire” concert after moving back to Milwaukee and when he witnessed the dramatic decline in Mass attendance and ministerial involvement following the pandemic.

“I wanted to see if my skills could contribute to bringing some life back to my community,” he said. “I spent a lot of time thinking about what inspires us and how we inspire others.”

Additionally, Bardele met many people over the years who are disappointed that they are unable to share their voice and miss or dream of singing with a beautiful choir.

“After my parents passed away, I must have solicited similar stories of how a hymn brought a parent to tears,” he said. “Through a welcoming, supportive experience from beginning to end, I hope to inspire our volunteer musicians to confidently share their voices and spirit to inspire our audience to inspire

their communities, in their own way, small or big.”

While there are no auditions, Bardele asks that each singer has a basic musical ability. Last year, he took everyone who wanted to participate, but some opted out as they were unable to manage the skill and pace of the music. Some plan to try again another time.

“I want rehearsals themselves to be as enjoyable as the concert,” he said.

Bardele is finalizing this year’s program and will be focusing on familiar and beloved Christian hymns. Last year’s concert included 18 pieces.

“Maybe half of (this year’s concert) will consist of four- and five-part harmony with the rest being solos and duets, sometimes accompanied by a simple choral sound,” he said. “Last year, we assembled an ensemble of young students from St. Margaret Mary School who performed the opening and led the adults on the final song. This year, we hope to include their new choir of older students to at least open the program.”

The first rehearsal will take place April 2, and Bardele plans to have the roster set and music distributed by March 19.

“At our first concert, Fr. Michael Joncas, composer of “On Eagle’s Wings,” and more joined us via Zoom to talk about how he was inspired to write his first well-known hymns,” said Bardele. “St. Margaret Mary is always happy that the church was designed with a large parking lot, no stairs from car to pew, bathrooms and a large, covered hotel-style entry.”

To participate in St. Margaret Mary’s second “Inspire” concert, contact Marcy Stone at mstone@stmmp.org or Kurt Bardele at bardelek@aol.com for details.

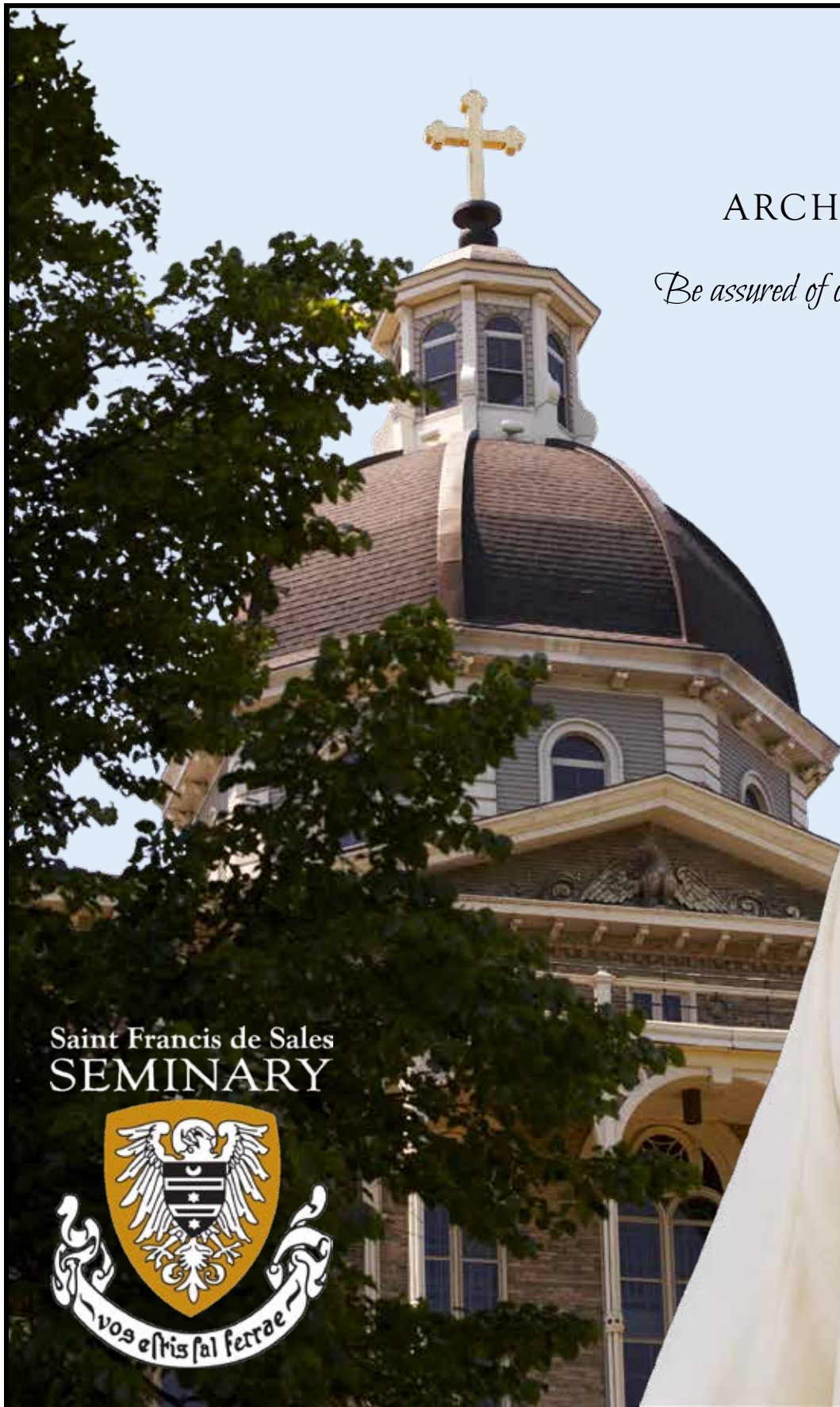
Congratulations

ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI

Be assured of our continued prayers and thanksgiving for your leadership.



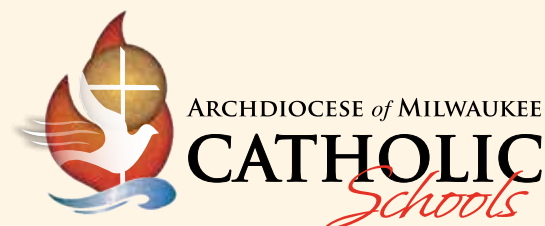
Saint Francis de Sales
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Archbishop ListECKI
A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

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Archbishop ListECKI,
May your birthday be
filled with joy,
reflection, and hope
for the year ahead,
and may prayer
continue to guide you.

With gratitude,



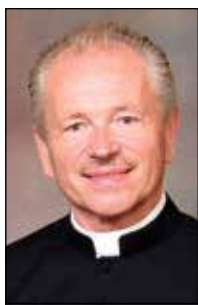
Pastor Cooks up Something Tasty During Lent

KAREN MAHONEY
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Each Friday during Lent, the fish is frying like hotcakes at St. Stephen Parish in Oak Creek.

The secret recipe for beer-battered fish was developed by the parish's pastor, Fr. Robert Kacalo, who focuses on made-from-scratch menu items.

"We make our own beer batter, coleslaw, tartar sauce and more," Fr. Kacalo said. "My role has always been hands-on. I'm helping cut the fish, overseeing and tasting recipe preparation, making sure every detail



▲ Fr. Robert Kacalo
(File photo)

of food preparation is par excellence, serving hot food hot and cold food cold. Then the volunteers take over and do an excellent job preparing and executing, knowing it's for the Church."

According to Mary Peterson, St. Stephen Advancement Director, their fish fry stands out due to the dedicated group of loyal and wonderful volunteers.

"Our volunteer community is a powerful group of all ages, who come together to have fun, help others, build a sense of fellowship and strive for the success and advancement of St. Stephen," she said, adding that Fr. Kacalo is the other reason for success.

Fr. Kacalo's success in providing a tasty fish fry that brings in hundreds of diners each week stemmed from his previous background in the hospitality industry.

"I have a food service degree and experience, which allowed me to use my talents to begin the fish fries at Holy Family for fundraising and community building," he said.



▲ Volunteers prepare items for the fish fry at St. Stephen Parish, Oak Creek. The parish hosts a fish fry every Friday during Lent. (Submitted photo)

"His expertise and experience are the reason our fish fries have reached so many patrons' tables. Fr. Robert's awareness of how the food should look, and most of all taste, is truly a blessing," Peterson said. "We are also one of the few churches that offer dine-in services, to-go and a drive-thru. And we also pride ourselves on how quickly we can serve the public."

Staff and volunteers begin planning and holding meetings six to eight weeks before Lent. They work hard on organization, communication and preparation to ensure they serve the best and fastest fish fry in town.

"Our goal is approximately 500 guests every Friday to include our drive-thru and dine-in guests. Our success is customer service, (and) we make sure

our guests have everything they need to enjoy their meals, maybe even a glass of beer or wine to help them wash it all down," said Fr. Kacalo. "We aim to serve our drive-thru guests in three minutes or less. We can beat the fast-food drive-thru, for sure."

"It takes a village" is the beginning of a saying pertaining to raising children. But for St. Stephen Parish, it may take an army to replace Fr. Kacalo when he retires this year, as he has done so much for the parish, including overhauling the fish fry into the current menu and offerings.

The parish fish fry offerings include beer-battered cod, baked cod and fried shrimp. Service runs from 4 to 7 p.m. each Friday during Lent, including Good Friday.

The St. Stephen fish fry is not Fr. Kacalo's first foray into Lenten fish fries. He began one at Holy Family in Whitefish Bay when he served there from 2008-10. Then he was assigned to St. Robert Bellarmine from 2010-16, where he began another Lenten fish fry, followed by St. Stephen in Oak Creek from 2016 to the present.

After his retirement this year, Fr. Kacalo plans to travel, as well as contribute and volunteer at his home parish, the Basilica of St. Josaphat.

"I have my family home in Crivitz that is always in need of tender loving care, and I wouldn't mind spending some time running my toes in the sand in a warm climate during the Wisconsin winter months," he said.

St. Stephen is located at 1441 W. Oakwood Road, Oak Creek. For more information, call 414-762-0552.

Dear Archbishop ListECKi -
May God continue to bless you on
your 75th birthday. Thank you for
all of your support for
The Catholic Community
Foundation over the years.



Happy Birthday,
Your friends at The
Catholic Community
Foundation



Cardinal
Timothy Dolan,
his grateful predecessor,
extends heartfelt
best wishes to
Archbishop
Jerome ListECKi
on the occasion of his
75th birthday.

Kohler Girls Raise \$100K for Clean Water in Africa

KRISTIN BAYER
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

Six high school girls from Kohler spend their free time helping change the lives of girls on the other side of the world. They're raising money to dig wells in Africa. So far, they've raised more than \$100,000.

According to Grace Villwock, a sophomore at Kohler High School, "There are a lot of diseases there. Cholera, hepatitis A and diarrhea are all very common, and all due to a lack of clean water."

Her classmate, Finley Bouck, said that for many families, when clean water is available, it often must be transported on foot from far away. "It's really hard, especially for girls, to get an education because usually they're the ones walking eight miles to get water for their entire family. They don't have time to go to school because water is more important."

In 2013, a group of middle school girls, including Bridget Bullard, decided to try to help. According to Bridget's mother, Shannon Bullard, while the girls were working on their Girl Scout Silver Award, "They went to the school library and were looking up different things. They unanimously agreed they wanted to raise money for water in Africa." After completing their Silver Award project, the girls decided to keep going, and they formed their own organization, called Girls Reaching Out.

In order to have the biggest impact, the GRO members decided to build wells at schools. That would allow the girls in Africa to collect water for their families, and also to attend school.

The girls organized numerous GRO fundraisers, including Christmas caroling, a booth at a craft fair and a Lenten offering at St. John Evangelist in Kohler, the Bullards' parish.



▲ A well in Malawi funded by Girls Reaching Out, a group of teenagers in Sheboygan County that raise funds for the wells. (Submitted photo)

So far this year, GRO has raised money for four new wells, according to member Melanie Pellegrino. Since the group's start, they have funded 23 wells.

"A single well costs \$7,500," said GRO member Abbey Janssen. "Part of that cost goes toward the maintenance and upkeep of the well throughout the years, if it ever breaks down."

When the original GRO members reached high school, they were asked a challenging question: How would they ensure that GRO continued after they left for college?

"They decided in their senior year that, rather than raising money for wells, they'd work on developing a group of girls so GRO would continue," Bullard said. That's how Bridget's younger sister Charlotte, and five of her classmates, got started in GRO. They are currently sophomores at Kohler High School.

Through a partnership with Lakeland

University, GRO members met students from the Republic of Malawi, a country in southeastern Africa that became the focus of their philanthropy. One of those students, Patrick Tembwe, is now back in Malawi, and helps them identify potential well sites, and oversees construction and maintenance of the wells.

The girls' most recent fundraiser was their most successful. GRO was chosen as the recipient of funds raised at the Rotary Club of Sheboygan's International Small Plates fundraising event in February. The event set a new record, raising more than \$30,000, which went to GRO.

"We always called it a God thing," said Shannon Bullard, who serves as an adult advisor to GRO. "Things just happened so naturally. When they were in sixth grade, I said, 'Let's research how much it costs to build a well.' I thought they would want to do something else, but

they said, 'Let's do that!' In the first years, they raised about \$500. Then things kept falling into place."

Bullard said that the girls came up with the organization's name, GRO, and made their own T-shirts. One of the girls was a server at church. Her priest asked about the T-shirt. That led to the girls speaking at four Masses, and to GRO being the focus of collections at Lent that year.

"For us, we get up in the morning, we probably take a sip of water, we brush our teeth. And we don't even think about how much money our families are paying. Over there, they have to worry about just being able to get that water," said GRO member Sophia Kwacz.

"We use water so many times a day and don't even think about it. You look in Malawi and these girls are lucky if once a week they get clean water," said Melanie Pellegrino. "It's heartwarming to see they can live a semi-normal life."

"Especially knowing it's girls like us, our same age, just trying to get an education," added Villwock.

Looking to the future, the girls hope to visit Malawi after graduation, to see the impact of what they've accomplished. In the meantime, they hope to find organizations that will match donations, and they're looking for opportunities to speak to businesses, organizations and churches, to help them spread their mission.

"Once people hear just a little bit about what's happening in the Third World or anywhere less fortunate, it makes them want to take action," said Villwock, "which is kind of what we tried to do."

For more information about GRO, see its website: girlsreachingout.wixsite.com/growthus.

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY
Archbishop
Listeck!

Bishop Robert J. McClory
and the priests, deacons and
diocesan faithful

*join with family, friends and
faithful of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
in celebrating the gift of your life and ministry.*



Diocese of Gary
dcgary.org



HONORED TO
Celebrate
ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI'S
75TH BIRTHDAY

PIUS XI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

WWW.PIUSXI.ORG



**The
Good News**

A weekly encouraging message from Archbishop Listeck!

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

Please share it!   www.archmil.org/Good-News

Archbishop Listeck

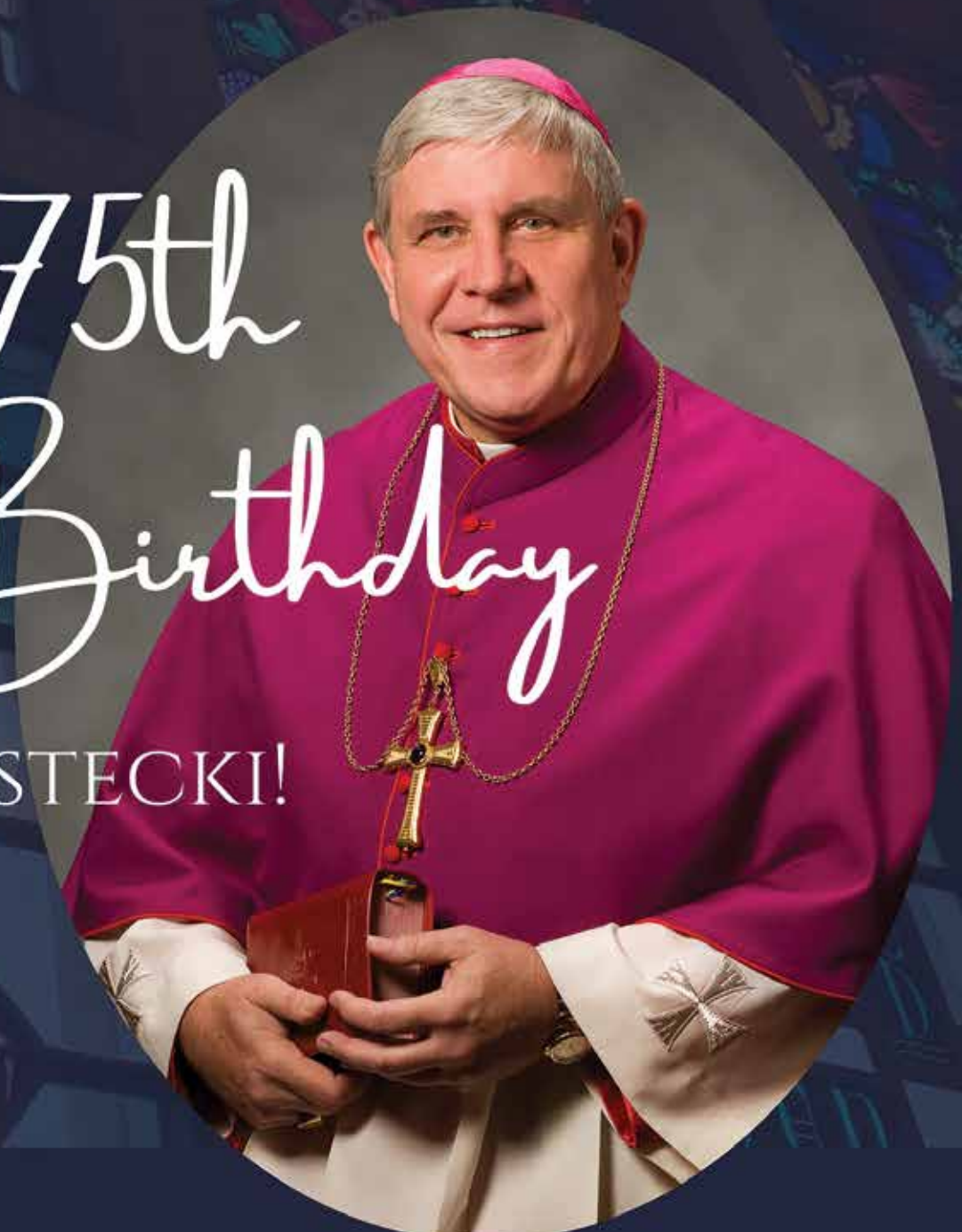
*Best Wishes on your 75th Birthday. May the Lord
bless you with continued health and happiness for
many years to come!*



*From the Leadership and Parishioners of
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ripon*

Happy 75th Birthday

ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI!



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON AND THE FAITHFUL OF
THE DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA



People and Places

Synod Listening Sessions Scheduled

In preparation for the next international Synod on Synodality, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will hold two listening sessions covering the theme of the relationship between lay people and the ordained, to which all are invited. A summary of these sessions will be compiled and submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The two sessions will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at St. Matthias Parish, Milwaukee, and 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 23, at Good Shepherd Parish, Menomonee Falls.

Since October 2021, the Church has been engaged in a process of consultation and preparation for the 2021-2024 international Synod of Bishops. The theme for this international synod is, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." The Archdiocese of Milwaukee engaged in the consultation process in spring 2022, and the results of the local dialogue were submitted in June 2022.

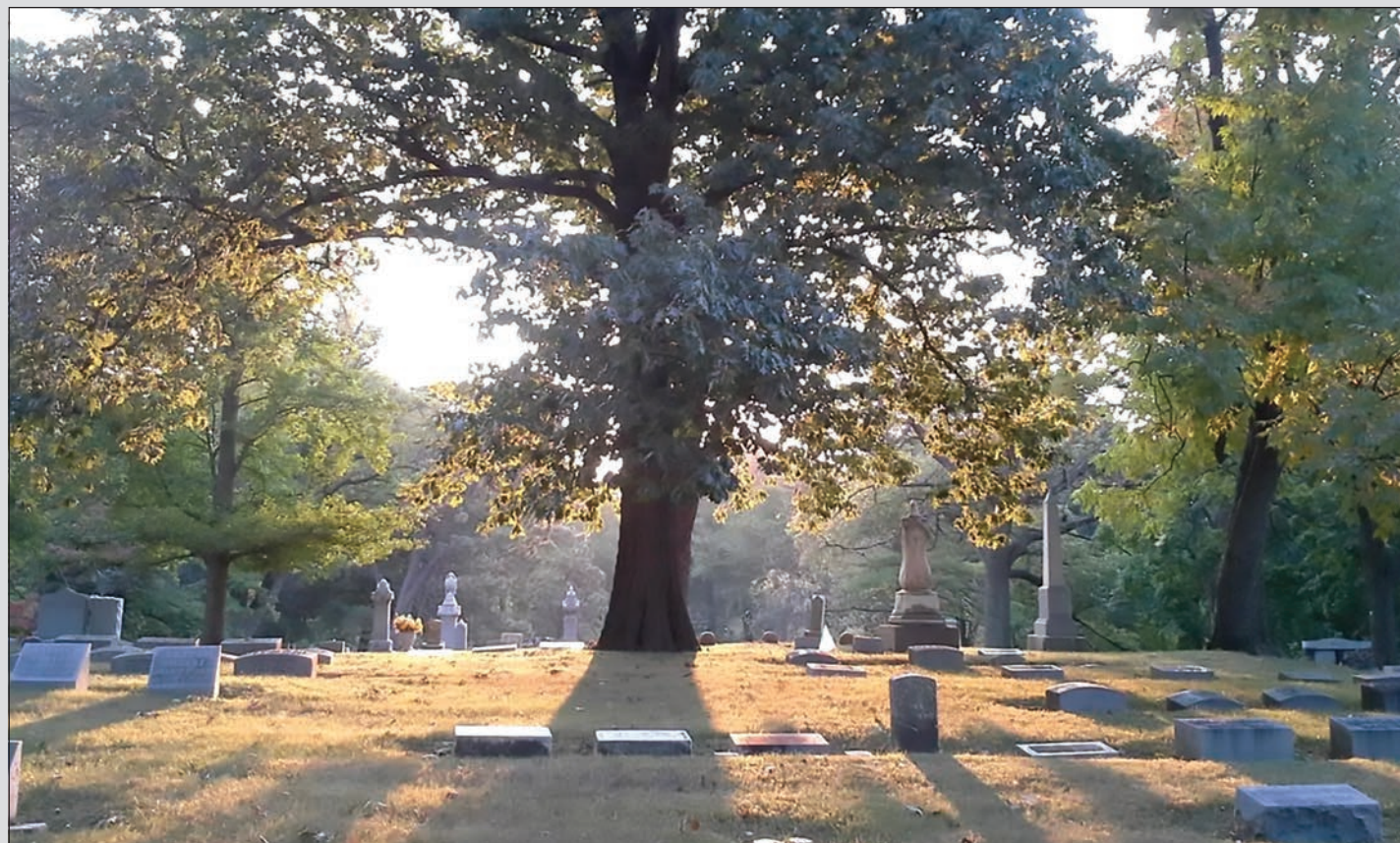
The first session was held at the Vatican in October, and from this, an international Synthesis Report and a Letter to the People of God were issued. The second session will be held October 2024. During this interim stage, in the season of Lent, dioceses across the world are holding two listening sessions, focused on two guiding questions about the Church's structure, and the Church's mission.

To register for a session, visit <http://tinyurl.com/yfvsthfj>.

Archdiocese to Host Day of Healing: Beyond Divorce

Whether you are still in the process of divorcing, or you have been divorced for years, "A Day of Healing: Beyond Divorce" is offered to all. Explore divorce in a deeper, gentler way, including presentations that guide you in a relationship with yourself, with God and with others.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee will host this event from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Schoenstatt Sisters Retreat House, W284 N698 Cherry Lane, Waukesha.



▲ Cleanup has begun at the Downtown Kenosha Catholic cemeteries. (Submitted photo)

The \$50 cost includes lunch and financial assistance is available. People of all faiths are welcome at this adults-only program.

Pre-registration is required by Monday, April 15, and can be complete at archmil.regfox.com/dayofhealingregister.

For more information, contact Edell Schaefer at ballintra@wi.rr.com.

DTKC Cemeteries Announce Spring Cleanup

The Downtown Kenosha Catholic cemeteries of St. Casimir, St. George and St. James began their annual spring cleanup process March 1.

"We wish to be transparent about the spring cleanup process before it begins," said Michael Benner.

Benner oversees sales and operations of the DTKC cemeteries. "We do not want our patrons to be caught off guard by our regulations. This often happens when prohibited items on graves are removed by our cemetery staff."

Per cemetery regulations, Christmas wreaths

should have been removed from graves by patrons before March 1.

The DTKC cemetery staff regularly cleans during the spring, summer and fall months for beautification, patron and employee safety, and for the prevention of polluting the cemeteries, neighboring properties, and the Pike Creek, Pike River and Lake Michigan watersheds with non-biodegradable material, in particular.

During the cleaning process, cemetery staff will remove and discard all items that are not in compliance with the cemetery rules and regulations including, but not limited to, the following: artificial flowers, decorations, statues, shepherd hooks, solar lights and edging.

Patrons should remove noncompliant decorations before the cemetery staff disposes of them. DTKC cemeteries are unable to retrieve a decoration once the cemetery staff has removed it.

The cemetery furthermore reserves the right to correct or remove at any time, without notification, any decoration or planting that is unsightly, overgrown, contrary to Catholic teaching or is immoral, scandalous, obscene in

nature or violates any decoration policy.

The complete list of rules and regulations that govern the Catholic cemeteries of St. Casimir, St. George and St. James may be found on the DTKC website and posted signs at each cemetery location.

St. Ann Center Chili and Jewelry Sale Returns

The St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care's biannual Chili and Jewelry Sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at St. Ann Center's Stein Campus, 2801 E. Morgan Ave., Milwaukee. The fundraiser features chili donated by popular Milwaukee restaurants, eye-catching and affordable vintage and handmade jewelry, a vendor market, live music and more.

All proceeds from the chili and jewelry sales go to support the care of children and adults of all ages and abilities who spend their day learning, growing and enjoying their time together at St. Ann Center's two campuses, the Stein Campus at the edge of Bay View and St. Francis, and the Bucyrus Campus on Milwaukee's near north side.

Marking a Milestone

Best wishes to Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi
for his 75th birthday and upcoming retirement!

May he be surrounded by love and filled with joy
as he celebrates these major milestones.

Frank LoCoco

Partner | Milwaukee

frank.lococo@huschblackwell.com

Bruce G. Arnold

Partner | Milwaukee

bruce.arnold@huschblackwell.com

[huschblackwell.com](https://www.huschblackwell.com)

HUSCH BLACKWELL

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI

THANK YOU FOR YOUR APOSTOLIC SERVICE TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
FROM THE HMONG CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. PETER CLAVER PARISH, SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN



The Hmong Catholic community of the Sheboygan Southside Catholic Parishes - St. Peter Claver



Our youth perform a skit during Hmong New Year



Fr. Paul Fliss works with Hmong elders and adult leaders to maintain diversity and harmony in faith.



Archbishop Listecky with Dr. Christopher Yang and family at Asian Pacific Unity Day.



Our youth learn how to serve at Mass with Fr. Paul Fliss.

GIFTS Grant Funds Art Gallery at St. Jerome

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

In his 1999 “Letter to Artists,” St. John Paul II wrote that “humanity in every age ... looks to works of art to shed light upon its path and its destiny.”

It’s a sentiment that Teri Chudy, Principal of St. Jerome School, Oconomowoc, embraces wholeheartedly. She saw it in action when she taught fifth grade as a substitute a few years ago. That day’s lesson plan called for a Scripture study of the Lamb of God, so Chudy went to the Smartboard and brought up an image of Baroque artist Francisco de Zubarán’s “*Agnus Dei*,” which vividly depicts a ram reposing on a beam of wood, its hooves bound.

She did not tell the students what the name of the painting was, but asked them to share their thoughts.

“All of these ideas were just coming out of the kids,” said Chudy. “One of the girls observed that in the lamb’s legs, she saw the shape of a heart — that was something I didn’t even see before.

Others noticed the wood and remarked that it was evocative of the wooden cross and the wooden manger. “They came up with all of those observations on their own,” she said.

A reproduction of the “*Agnus Dei*” now hangs in St. Jerome’s entryway, one of a dozen pieces in the school’s new fine art gallery. The purchase of that painting, and 10 others in the gallery, was funded by a grant from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s GIFTS Grant program.

Established in 2019, Grant Initiatives for Today’s Students is funded through the annual Archbishop’s Catholic Schools Dinner. Nearly 150 grants totaling \$1.05 million have been awarded in four areas: Catholic identity, development and marketing, education innovation and seed money for project initiation.

The idea for the gallery was first



▲ Students ponder a reproduction of “*Agnus Dei*” by Francisco de Zubarán in the new art gallery at St. Jerome School, Oconomowoc. (Submitted photo)

conceived almost two years ago, when Chudy attended a conference for Catholic educators where she was introduced to Benedictus Art, a company that specializes in museum-quality reproductions of artistic masterpieces for churches and schools.

She researched the company and saw a video of a school in New Mexico that had installed a gallery of classical artwork from Benedictus Art.

“The way that the students in this video and parents spoke about it was very inspiring,” she said. “At that moment I said, ‘I have to do this for St. Jerome. I have to find a way to make this happen. I don’t know how that’s going to happen, but we have to find a way to do this.’”

Museum-quality art prints don’t come cheaply — each piece costs between \$700 and \$1,000. Chudy and a friend who was also attending the conference both entered a drawing for a free piece of art. Chudy’s friend ended up winning a reproduction of Rembrandt’s “*The Prodigal Son*.”

“She turned to me and said, ‘This is your first piece for your art gallery,’” said Chudy.

The painting found a home in Chudy’s office while she tried to find ways to get the gallery funded. A generous parishioner donated money for the purchase of a second piece, but other leads for funding were dead ends.

Then Chudy saw the GIFTS Grant applications. “I thought, ‘You know what? I’m just going to go for it. I’m going to write my case of what this does for kids, how (art) reaches them at a deep level and, and exposes them to beauty,’” she said.

With the GIFTS Grant money, the school was able to purchase 12 reproduction paintings, including works by Raphael, Rembrandt and Van Gogh, to name just a few.

One piece by John Jay Audubon depicting a sandhill crane is especially beloved by students and staff.

“We have sandhill cranes that are here all

the time, and they actually walk right up to the windows and look in at the kids,” said Chudy.

Another piece, “*The Angelus*” by Jean-Francois Millet, is hung right next to the cafeteria.

“We pause and we pray the *Angelus* together at noon (as a school), so that’s the last thing they see before they go into the cafeteria,” said Chudy.

“I feel it is important to make works of art like these accessible to all students, even my kinders,” said K5 teacher Michele Salmins. “No one is too young (to be) exposed to beautiful works of art, even if it is to just look and ponder. I equate this to exposing children to good pieces of literature; it is my job to help broaden their minds to more than just what society shows them on a daily basis.”

St. Jerome art instructor Christine Owens said the addition of the gallery brings “cohesion” to the main atrium space.

“By that, I mean the architecture of the atrium space (the main display area) and the installation of the art work have become visually united,” Owens said. “The atrium is a main entry portal to the school, so it is a place of public gathering. The installation of the colorful subject matter of the art pieces reflects those aspects of welcoming, gathering, praying and reflecting.”

Owens said she hopes to incorporate the pieces in the gallery into her art curriculum, both in terms of art history instruction and by utilizing them as inspiration.

The museum quality of the art is certainly up to snuff for such a purpose.

“You can see the brush strokes. It looks like the real painting. I’ve had people say, ‘When do we have to give these back?’” said Chudy. “I said, ‘Well, we don’t. They’re ours now.’”

Happy
75th birthday
 Archbishop ListECKi

Thank you for your Christ-centered leadership to our sisters and brothers in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



ARCHDIOCESE
 OF
 SAINT PAUL &
 MINNEAPOLIS

Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Joseph Williams, Bishop Michael Izen and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



Bishop Michael McGovern
 and the
 Diocese of Belleville
 Congratulate
 Archbishop Jerome ListECKi
 on his many years of
 Episcopal ministry.

Life Is Christ



Students Connect with Catholic Roots on Roman Holiday

COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Christmas break for high school students usually means a much-appreciated chance to sleep in, eat Christmas cookies and do a good amount of nothing at all.

That wasn't the case this year for 30 students at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, but you won't hear any of them complaining. What their Christmas break lacked in downtime, it made up for in mouthwatering Italian cuisine, glimpses of Pope Francis, unforgettable spiritual encounters and experiences that one student called "more beautiful than I could have ever imagined."

From Dec. 27 to Jan. 4, 30 students from the all-girls school on Milwaukee's northwest side and five chaperones participated in a whirlwind tour of Florence, Assisi and Rome. The trip has been in the works for several years and was a joint venture between the school's Campus Ministry and its Latin program, said DSHA Director of Campus Ministry Stephanie Monson.

"We wanted to customize a pilgrimage so the students could experience the connection between our Roman roots and our Christian faith," she said. "There is no more beautiful wonder in the world than a student who is finding their place and faith in it. Italy showed them how deep our Catholic tradition is and how much a part of it they are."

"I jumped at the opportunity," said Anna Pienkos, a junior. Pienkos is a student in DSHA Latin teacher Thomas Head's class, and Head was instrumental in planning the trip (he also chaperoned it, accompanied by his wife and 7-month-old daughter).

"I decided to go because of how much the history of Rome fascinates me



▲ Thirty students from Divine Savior Holy Angels High School visited Rome over Christmas break, where they saw Pope Francis three times and visited iconic landmarks like the Colosseum. (Submitted photo)

and because my family has always put travel as an important part of personal growth," said Pienkos' fellow junior Nina Kuehn. It was the first international trip for both students.

The group departed Dec. 28, arriving in Florence in time for a short dinner and a walk through the iconic city. The next day brought them to Assisi on the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' miracle of the creche.

"There were creches everywhere we looked and in such diverse presentations," said Monson. The visit to Assisi also included a drive through the countryside, a visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli and Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis, plus a walking tour of the city. The group then traveled to Rome as the sun set — a "stunning

experience," said Kuehn — and spent New Year's Eve in the Eternal City.

"We had Sunday Mass at the Chair of St. Peter in Latin, which our students had been happily anticipating for months," said Monson. "After, we saw the pope for the first time at the weekly *Angelus* in St. Peter's Square. Later that afternoon, the rain pushed us into the colonnade of St. Peter's, where we toured a creche exhibit. We were able to celebrate *Te Deum* and Evening Prayer with Pope Francis and see him again, close up, twice as he left the event."

"As we were walking down the front steps of the Vatican, I noticed a large group of people beginning to flood to the right side of the basilica," said Pienkos. "I ran as fast as I could to the fence, and began to hear people yelling for Pope Francis. I pulled

out my phone, and just as I did, he and his security rolled past. He had a smile on his face, and was waving to me and the rest of the crowd."

She said she "will forever cherish that moment."

"I felt blessed that I had the opportunity of being in his presence," she said.

The group bade farewell to 2023 with a traditional Italian dinner and watched fireworks over St. Peter's Basilica.

"I doubt many American teenage girls were lucky enough to have seen New Year's Eve fireworks go off over St. Peter's Basilica surrounded by their closest friends," said Kuehn.

On New Year's Day, the group celebrated the Solemnity of Mary Mother God at the Motherhouse of the Priests of the Divine Savior and toured the Spanish Steps, Piazza di Spagna, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. In their remaining days in Italy, they had the opportunity to pray at St. Peter's tomb, tour the Colosseum and Forum, visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, pray a Rosary at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore and experience the beauty of the Sistine Chapel.

Monson said she hopes the trip helped the students to "feel connected to their faith and to live it more fully."

"Experiences like this are so formative as a high school student," said Monson. "They are forming their identity in Christ and so seeing the beauty, deep history and vibrancy in their Catholic faith on a trip like this changes something in them."

"I can only hope that one day I will return to Rome. I hope to study abroad for a semester or two in college, and am fairly sure that Rome will be the destination for that time," said Pienkos. "Isn't it fate that I return one day? I mean, I did throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain."



School News Briefs

MACCW Offers Scholarship Opportunity

For many years, the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has strongly supported Catholic education. This year MACCW will once again offer three \$1,500 scholarships to three girls who are planning to enter a Catholic high school in the fall of 2024.

The young ladies may have attended public or private schools or been home schooled for their elementary years. Requirements are: living in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and planning to attend an archdiocesan Catholic high school, filling out the application form, writing a 500-word essay on a choice of one of the two questions offered on the application and a letter of recommendation from a non-relative.

Application forms and details are available at maccw.com. All applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 5, and winners will be notified by phone by May 6. For any questions, call MACCW Scholarship Chair Beatrice Sikorski at 262-363-4312.

Alverno College Team Chosen for National USDA Competition

Alverno College is one of 19 minority-serving education institutions selected to participate in the 2024 USDA Agricultural Export Market Challenge. This is the second consecutive year that Alverno has been chosen to participate.

The challenge is an immersive learning opportunity that will simulate the work that USDA's Foreign Agricultural Services (FAS) subject matter experts perform every day to increase export opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products. Through case studies and role playing, participating students will gain knowledge and skills in economics, diplomacy, scientific analysis, marketing and trade policy.

Teams that complete the challenge will present their solutions to FAS leadership in March. The winning team will receive the opportunity to travel



▲ For the second consecutive year, Alverno has been chosen to take part in the USDA Agricultural Export Market Challenge. Pictured are Kimberly Saavedra Villegas, Dorian Tellis, Shadae Ortiz and Ashlee Sukenik, who are taking part in the 2024 USDA Agricultural Export Market Challenge. Not pictured is Sofia Jorgensen. (Submitted photo)

to USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., to meet with USDA leaders. Rebekah Klingler, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, is mentoring a team of five students: Kimberly Saavedra Villegas, Sofia Jorgensen, Ashlee Sukenik, Shadae Ortiz and Dorian Tellis.

Sacred Heart Awarded \$5,000 from the Catholic Community Foundation

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Catholic Community Foundation to be used to support teachers, catechists and campus ministers in the

Archdiocese of Milwaukee schools.

Specialized formation of seminarians and laity is SHSST's expertise; the seminary tailors programs to meet the needs of students and sponsors.

Sacred Heart administrators and staff asked, "How can we, as a seminary, support teachers, catechists and campus ministers in area Catholic high schools?" The answer was to bring pastoral and spiritual formation expertise, and the international student body, to benefit Archdiocese of Milwaukee religious teachers.

This project has two prongs. The first component is inviting area high school students and their

teacher formators to the multicultural Mass; SHSST is unique in that priests, religious brothers and sisters from around the world come attend SHSST to study English. This provides a rare opportunity for high school students to not only participate in liturgy within the seminary but to see priests and religious from around the world come together to celebrate the Mass in several languages. It provides a view of the world Church that few rarely see. The day will include a meet and greet, and lunch.

The second prong is offering a half-day spiritual retreat for high school formators, facilitated by Sacred Heart's faculty. The goal is to help renew

Catholic teachers as they work to pass on the faith to their students. These prongs are two specific ways Sacred Heart can provide specialized formation, using resources in collaboration with the Catholic Community Foundation and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office for Schools, to benefit the greater Catholic community.

Have Brunch with the President at Marian University

There's a new option for Sunday Brunch in Fond du Lac — at Marian University. Michelle Majewski, President at Marian University, is inviting the community to join her for "Brunch With the President" once a month. The first brunch was Feb. 25.



▲ John Smurawa. (Submitted photo)

The next two will be March 24 and April 28 in the Hornung Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$13 for adults and \$9 for children.

"We want to showcase that Marian University is not only an incredible institution for higher education," said Majewski, "But we also provide amazing cuisine."

More than a year ago, Marian hired Food and Beverage Manager John Smurawa, a classically trained chef, to re-create the student dining experience, as well as the catering for special events at Marian. His cuisine has created quite a buzz among the foodies in Fond du Lac.

Marquette University Dean Named President-Elect of National Organization

Brian Troyer, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions at Marquette University, has been elected to serve as president of the National Catholic College Admission Association for the 2025-26 academic year and will spend the 2024-25 year as president-elect. The appointment began with the National CCAA membership meeting in January.

The National CCAA is a nonprofit organization of Catholic colleges and universities committed to promoting the value of Catholic higher education

and to serving students, parents and counselors. Troyer is coming off a yearlong tenure as secretary on the NCCAA Board of Directors. After serving as president, he will spend the 2026-27 academic year as past-president.

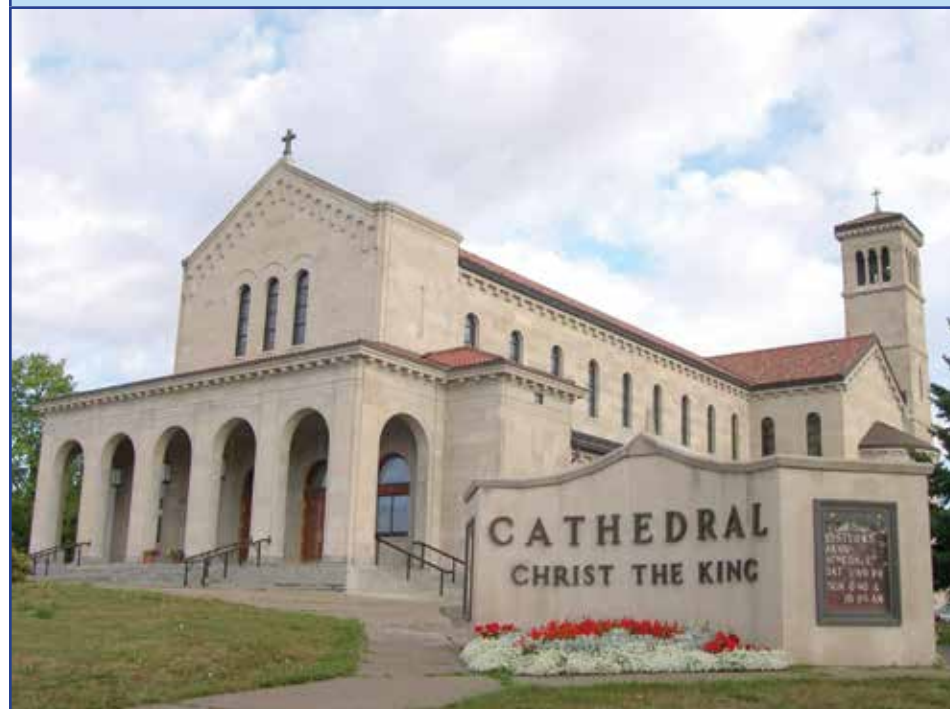
"Brian's leadership has been instrumental in the university's successful enrollment strategies — particularly amid a period of recruitment challenges facing the higher education industry as a whole," said Dr. John Baworowsky, Vice President for Enrollment Management. "He uses a keen, data-based approach and impressive creativity, along with a talent for teambuilding, to shape incoming first-year classes that continue to exceed expectations in terms of academic excellence and diversity." The board of directors serves to further the mission of the National CCAA, promoting the value of Catholic higher education and serving students, parents and counselors. In addition to the executive director of the National CCAA, the board is composed of admission and enrollment leaders from member institutions and secondary school counselors from Catholic high schools.

Troyer was named dean of undergraduate admissions in 2016 and has overseen undergraduate admissions during a critical time in higher education.

In recent years, Troyer and his team have deployed new strategies to help achieve Marquette's enrollment goals. In 2019, Marquette joined a growing list of institutions offering test optional admissions policies. Admissions has also found innovative ways to attract students from new and emerging markets. For the fall 2024 admissions cycle, admissions implemented innovative inquiry-generating strategies that began three years ago and introduced Marquette's first Early Action application timeline. For fall 2024, they have seen more than a 20 percent increase in applications. To bring in Marquette's most recent first-year class, Troyer and his team expanded a pilot fly-in program; they also held recruitment dinners and receptions in 27 cities, at which more than 50 percent of attendees committed to Marquette. He and his team also saw a nearly 4 percent increase in admitted student visitors on campus.

Happy 75th Birthday Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky!

May your birthday be filled with many blessings!



Bishop James P. Powers & the Faithful of the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin



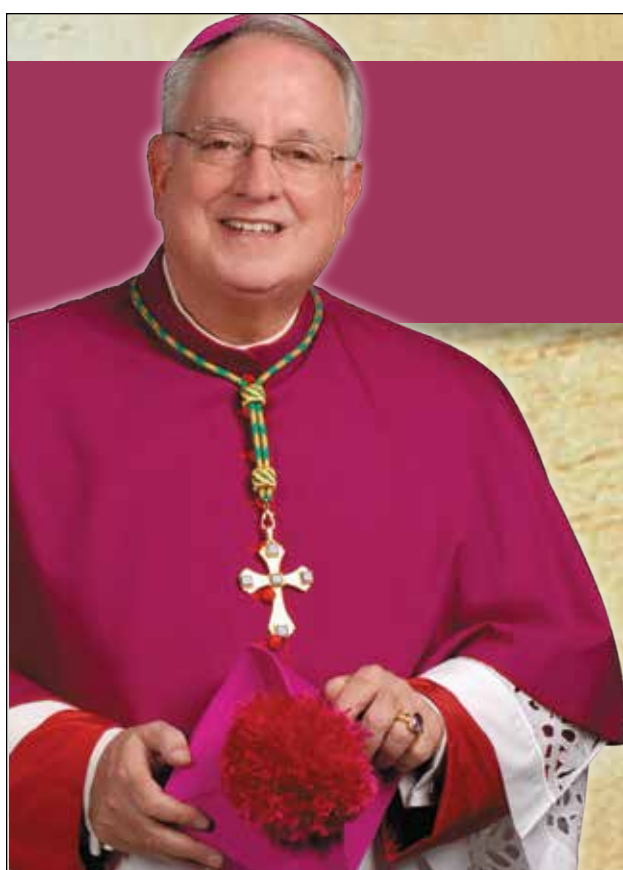
**PRAYERS *and*
CONGRATULATIONS,
ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI**
on your 75th Birthday!

We rejoice with you as you celebrate the many ways you have been the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to the Church.

With prayers and blessings from **Bishop David L. Ricken** and the **Faithful of the Diocese of Green Bay**



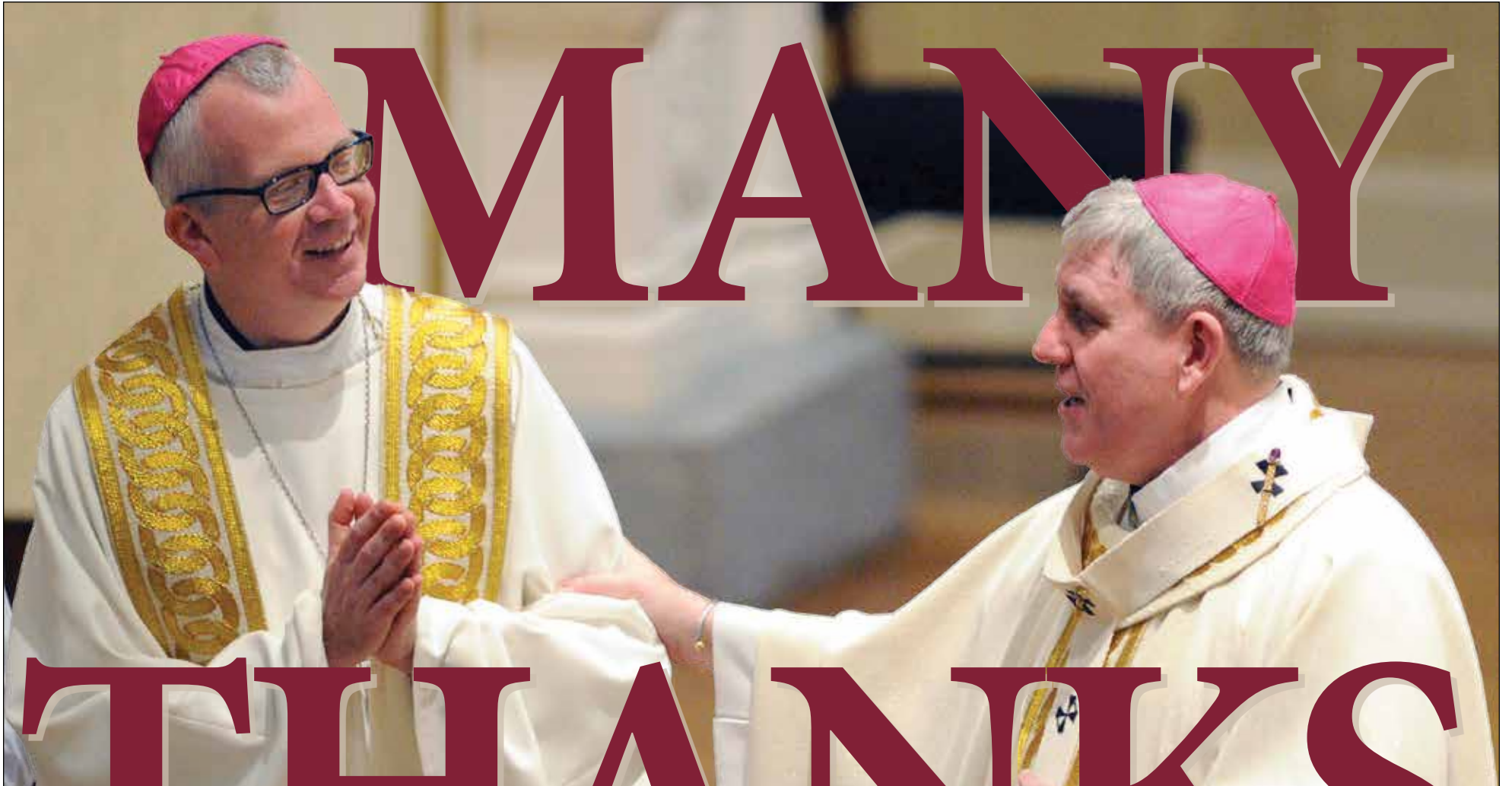
Diocese of
Green Bay



CONGRATULATIONS
MOST REVEREND JEROME LISTECKI

On this special day, we wish you a joyous birthday and pray that God blesses you abundantly with health, happiness, and continued strength as you shepherd your flock with love and devotion. May His grace surround you always, guiding you in your episcopacy and beyond. We remain grateful that you served as our Bishop and so clearly demonstrated that “Life is Christ.”

from **BISHOP WILLIAM PATRICK CALLAHAN**
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE, WI



MANNY

THANKS

Archbishop ListECKi

for leading us with courage and love to the Heart of Christ! We offer our love, gratitude, and prayers to you for all you have done as a servant of the Lord.

Bishop Donald J. Hying and the priests, people, and staff of the Diocese of Madison

Appointment of Next Archbishop Will Follow In-Depth Consultation

KATHLEEN MCGILLIS DRAYNA
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

The process to fill an archbishop vacancy is similar to the process used to fill a pastor vacancy — but on a much grander scale.

Both situations involve deep research, consultations with many people and a number of recommendations, but ultimately just one person makes the decision. Just as the archbishop of Milwaukee decides on local pastor appointments, the pope will appoint the next archbishop of Milwaukee.

This new appointment is anticipated because Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki has planned for some time to send his retirement paperwork to Pope Francis on March 12, his 75th birthday, as called for by canon law.

Archbishop Listecki, who was appointed more than 14 years ago, will remain archbishop if Pope Francis holds on to the resignation letter or asks him to stay until a new archbishop is selected. Other times, the pope accepts a bishop or archbishop's resignation immediately and an interim administrator is elected or appointed.

The process to select a new archbishop or bishop can be a time consuming one, often taking eight months or more to complete, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website.

While the final decision is made in Rome, the process for selecting candidates to become a bishop or archbishop typically begins locally and works its way through a series of consultations, the USCCB website continues.

A key person in the process of selecting a new archbishop in the United States is the apostolic nuncio, who is the ambassador of the Holy See. He serves as Pope Francis' personal and official representative both to the Church in the United States and to the U.S. government.

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, a native of France, has served as Apostolic Nuncio to the United States for about eight years. In the past, he has served in that role in Haiti, Uganda and Mexico.



▲ Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio, will do a lot of the legwork to present to the Vatican before a new archbishop of Milwaukee is selected. (File photo)

Cardinal Pierre is charged with far more than gathering facts, according to the USCCB website. He would expect to consult with Archbishop Listecki himself and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's two auxiliary bishops, Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines and Bishop James T. Schuerman, as well as other past and present Wisconsin bishops, the USCCB description of the process indicates. The president and vice president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops would be consulted, and other archbishops may be as well.

Cardinal Pierre then could be expected to narrow the list of candidates and send a questionnaire to about

25 people who know each man for their input, under the process outlined on the USCCB website. His final report would include narrative comments regarding this research.

At the same time, "a report is requested from the current bishop or the administrator of a diocese on the conditions and needs of the diocese," the website said.

In the typical process, after months of research and consultations, the nuncio submits a profile of about 20 pages to the dicastery, the USCCB website said. This includes three candidates listed alphabetically, but with his preference noted.

Cardinal Pierre's profile will help the cardinals and staff who make up the Dicastery for Bishops to get a full picture of the status and needs of the flock.

The Dicastery of Bishops is made up of about 35 cardinals and archbishops from around the world. It is headed by Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., of the United States but most recently bishop of Chiclayo in Peru.

Once it receives Cardinal Pierre's report, the Dicastery of Bishops and its staff would gather more information and eventually takes a vote in order to recommend one man to the pope, who has the final say. The dicastery may follow the nuncio's recommendation, choose another candidate of the three recommended, or even ask the nuncio to prepare another profile with a panel of three other men, the USCCB website said.

The international process echoes a local process followed when priests are placed as pastors, associates, chaplains or in other positions.

In that case, an archdiocese representative from the Priest Placement Office meets with the parish Pastoral Council, parish staff and other leaders about what attributes they would like to see in their next pastor. Priests who are anticipating a new assignment can learn about and visit parishes and other locations that expect to have openings. Others are consulted on recommendations, and ultimately, a special board makes a recommendation to the archbishop, who makes the appointment.

Happy 75th Birthday, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi



The following is a collection of birthday wishes to Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi from Catholics in southeastern Wisconsin and beyond. He will turn 75 years old on March 12.

Thank you for your guidance and leadership in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee!

Amy T., Immaculate Conception, Milwaukee

Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi, Happy 75th birthday on March 12. Enjoy your special day. You have been an outstanding archbishop around the 10-county Archdiocese of Milwaukee since 2010 for us. You had many issues to deal with. I always admired your leadership style. I am going to miss reading all of your "Love One Another" issues. God's many blessings on your retirement,

Anita W., St. John Paul II, Milwaukee

Wishing you a very happy 75th birthday! Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the Milwaukee archdiocese. Hope you are planning something special to celebrate your milestone birthday this year!

Robert K., St. Mary's Visitation, Elm Grove

We pray for you daily and thank God for your service to his people. We are grateful to you for confirming several of our children as well. May God bless you abundantly!

Steve and Moira M., St. Stanislaus, Milwaukee

May the blessings of our Lord continue to bless you all the days of your life. Happy birthday.

Julane S., St. Peter, East Troy

Thank you for your guidance and leadership. As a former Central Wisconsin resident and now in

Southeast Wisconsin, I feel blessed to have seen your faith in action for many years. I have always appreciated how personable you are, as it is welcoming to those around you. Wishing you a peaceful retirement. You will be missed.

Megan J., St. Peter, East Troy

Happy birthday, Archbishop ListECKi! I want to thank you for creating a holy seminary that gives the Church holy priests, that lead holy parishes, that produce holy parishioners, that make up holy congregations. May God richly bless you.

Debbie S., St. Jerome, Oconomowoc

Best wishes on your 75th birthday! May God continue to bless you. I praise God for the work you do in our archdiocese! May your 75th year be your best yet!

Terry S., St. Joseph, Big Bend

Do you remember your happy days in Sulphur, Oklahoma? I think about you all the time, pray for you all the time and hope you are having a happy life. All of those little kids who used to run around when you were here have all grown up, and many have moved away. Please know that we have never forgotten you. Happy birthday from Sulphur, Oklahoma!

Kathleen S., St. Francis Xavier, Sulphur, Oklahoma

Blessings and happy 75th birthday, Archbishop ListECKi. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. It was a pleasure meeting you at SJN Festival a few years ago when you were there, and as a brother Knight, we also share that bond. May God continue to watch over you, guide you and bring you peace.

Shawn H., St. John Neumann, Waukesha

► **READ MORE PAGE 28**

Happy 75th Birthday, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky



► BIRTHDAY WISHES, FROM PAGE 27

Congratulations on your birthday. Your mom and Aunt Joanne were very good friends with my Aunt Mae Bedalov and sisters Millie and Violet, along with my father, Anthony. You said Aunt Mae's funeral Mass in 1996. My family and I attended your ordination. May you continue to be blessed with good health and faith for many years.

Anthony B., St. Mary of the Lake, New Buffalo, Michigan

We have been blessed to have you as our bishop! We thank God for your leadership every single day. You will certainly be missed in retirement, but you have earned it. Many blessings to you on your 75th birthday!

Kathie and Tom M., St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva

Happy birthday to Archbishop Jerome Listecky! May God bless you today and every day. It has been a blessing to know you and travel on several pilgrimages with you.

Terri H., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hebron, Kentucky

I have enjoyed worshiping with you over the handful of times I have had the privilege to do so. Thank you for your leadership during a very tumultuous time in this history of our archdiocese. May God bless you during your retirement years.

Patrick G., Mother of Perpetual Help, West Allis

Happy birthday, Archbishop Listecky! I've been fortunate enough to see you speak at Men of Christ, Ballpark Day of Faith and during my time as a family service advisor with Catholic Cemeteries, which concluded recently. I thank you for the manner in which you serve your flock. You never yield to the whims of the day socially, but

yet somehow you don't perch from an ivory tower. Like your predecessor, you are out in the world, among the people. You aren't afraid to condemn bad actions or bad public policy, but never condemn individuals. I appreciate how you have taken a stand in the public square for the issues that matter most to Catholics. I appreciate that you are so approachable. Selfishly, I hope you remain our bishop for many more years but realize that the search has begun for your replacement, and you naturally would want to pass the mantle. I tell you, being a practicing Catholic in today's modern society is hard sometimes. Many times, we feel on the defensive, or feel really like we are swimming upstream or marginalized. Thanks for emboldening us and speaking the truth with love. I hope you can get some well-deserved rest on your birthday (maybe that whole week). Please pray for our youth. We are sending them out in a culture very different from the culture this 61-year-old came of age in. God bless you, Archbishop Listecky, and happy birthday!

Brian P., Christ King, Wauwatosa

Praying for many blessings for your milestone birthday!

Margaret D., St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva

Happy birthday, Archbishop Listecky! May God bless you with peace and joy as you celebrate your 75th birthday. Enjoy your special day!

Rebecca P., St. Mary, Menomonee Falls

Happy birthday! Feliz natalis! Thank you for all you have done and blessings! Love when you come to the "Women of Christ" conferences.

Carmen L., St. Mary, Menomonee Falls

Happy 75th Birthday, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki



Happy birthday! Thank you for being a great bishop!

Andy R., St. Jerome, Oconomowoc

God bless you on your birthday and always.

Kristie W., Christ King, Wauwatosa

Happy birthday, Archbishop Listecki. Thank you for guiding and leading us in the diocese. May God bless you abundantly in your retirement and where the Lord continues to take you. Sending our prayers.

Julie and Richard P., Holy Family, Fond du Lac

May my brother Knight of Columbus continue to receive all the many blessings, mercies and love of God. May you continue to have health, happiness and joy each day of your life. Don't forget to enjoy a great slice of cake to enjoy and celebrate your special day.

Brian N., Our Lady of Lourdes, Greenfield

I hope you have a great birthday. And I will keep you in my prayers. And I hope you have a great birthday and have a fantastic birthday. And please pray for all Kenosha churches.

Donovan S., St. Peter, Kenosha

One of my most treasured memories was when I approached you after a seminary dinner. My sister-in-law, who is a staunch supporter of the seminary and the Church, had been recently diagnosed with leukemia and was about to undergo the process for a bone marrow transplant. I had her on the phone and had hoped for you to say hello to her. You did so much more. You spoke, encouraged, loved and prayed with her amid the post-dinner celebrations. Today, she is healed and enjoying her life as a servant of God. Thank you again for giving her that additional support to make it through

surgery and chemotherapy.

Monica C., St. Eugene, Fox Point

Your Excellency, best wishes on your 75th birthday, and most important, thank you for your leadership. It's amazing what has happened since you guided the archdiocese through the scandal, bankruptcy and the rebuilding of confidence among the faithful. I'm not sure the seminary would be where it is without that steadfast leadership — what a turnaround in such a short time. Your visits to the parishes and to the schools are remembered well by our five children. Personally, I thank you for being such a friend of Men of Christ. We build our conference around your schedule, and sure enough, every year you gift the men with Holy Mass and a message so needed by today's men of all ages. Know of our family's prayers for your retirement (though I don't see you pulling your foot off the gas), and thank you for being such a strong priestly role model that our own son Xavier admires as he contemplates a vocation to the priesthood.

Jim and Helen M., St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg

Thank you, Archbishop Listecki, for your loyalty and dedication to Milwaukee's archdiocese and so much more. I was sad when you mentioned at last year's Polish Fest that you were retiring. Wish you didn't have to. Thank you also for taking the time to take a photo with me at Polish Fest. It's one of my few "cherished" photos. May your new journey keep you safe and healthy, and may the many memories stay in your heart. God bless, and enjoy your retirement. Happy and blessed 75th birthday.

Maria Z., St. Bernadette, Milwaukee, and Christ King, Wauwatosa

► [READ MORE PAGE 30](#)

Happy 75th Birthday, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky



► BIRTHDAY WISHES, FROM PAGE 29

Prayers and best wishes on your 75th birthday. We will never forget our wonderful trip to Italy with you and were so blessed to be in your first parish. Happy birthday!

Janet and Tim M., St. Margaret Mary, Chicago

Thank you so much for your leadership during COVID and fighting to keep churches open! That was admirable. It was awesome bumping into you in the St. Louis airport last year. Thank you for being our leader.

Scott C., St. Dominic, Brookfield

Happy birthday, dear shepherd! I just want to thank you for your service to us all. You have been an inspiration and gift from God. I do not think you know how much you mean to us. You have been a great role model, teacher and healer. I will never forget your kindness, including blessing members of my family (especially my mom), helping direct me regarding questions, and praying for so many intentions, including for my father. It has meant the world to me, and this sheep definitely recognizes Jesus in our earthly shepherd. Thank you and God bless! A faithful sheep.

Jean G., Divine Mercy, South Milwaukee

Wishing you a blessed life in retirement. Thank you for all you have done for the Milwaukee archdiocese all these years. God bless you, Father.

Jason D., St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg

It isn't often that a bishop has a sense of humor, a military background honed in service, a law degree (necessary today because of the attacks on the Catholic Church) and a people-friendly manner with all parishioners. Fortunately, Bishop Listecky, you

were assigned to Milwaukee, and you brought these attributes with you. Thank you.

Phil B., St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg

Some time ago, you were at our parish. My husband wanted to know about kissing the archbishop's ring. So, I explained what I knew to him. When he saw you in the narthex, he asked to kiss your ring. For that, you told everyone that he kissed your ring, and you gave him 300 days indulgence. He tells everyone that story. Thank you for your years of service to our archdiocese. God bless you in your future.

Joseph and Mary G., Holy Name of Jesus, Sheboygan

I am a former member of St. John's. I live in Tustin, California. I was at St. John's at the times I spoke with you. I still have the rosary you gave to my RCIA class in 2011. I wish you all the best on your birthday. Thank you for your service.

Michael C., St. John Henry Newman, Irvine, California

Thank you for the best thing in my life. In 1966, you introduced me to the love of my life, who would become my wife of 48 years (plus for you being my friend throughout high school and college). I hope to spend more time with you in retirement.

Greg S., St. Andrew, Downers Grove, Illinois

I was blessed to go on the pilgrimage you headed to Rome a few years ago and was impressed by your kindness, clarity of vision and enthusiasm. Also, the free dinner at your favorite (or one of them) Italian restaurant was most pleasant. I have been a regular contributor to Saint Francis de Sales Seminary since that trip, in large part

Happy 75th Birthday, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky



because of you and the young men in formation that I met. I pray that whoever is appointed to take your place will come with as large a heart and faithful soul as you have. Thank you so much.

Christine P., St. Mary, Menomonee Falls

Happy birthday, Archbishop Listecky! I hope your day is filled with joy, friendship and many blessings. Thank you for your compassion and leadership.

Laura S., St. Vincent Pallotti, Milwaukee

Dear Archbishop Listecky, Thank you so much for your care and leadership for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In a particular way, I want to thank you for your focus on evangelization. Though I was raised in a wonderful Catholic home and given a solid Catholic education in California, Brew City Catholic caught my eye, and I moved across the country to minister at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Through Brew City, I made lifelong friends here and decided I wanted to settle in Milwaukee. My husband, too, found community as a

young, lonely engineer who had just moved to Waukesha, and was greatly impacted by joining Brew City's Base Camp in 2021. Thanks to Brew City, we met, got married and have chosen to raise a family here in the archdiocese. My own faith has grown and taken on a life of its own because of your desire to share the Gospel. May God bless you!

Sophie N., St. Joseph, Waukesha

Archbishop Listecky, I have wonderful memories of the pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St. Paul," especially the Mass you celebrated under the trees on the grounds of the old synagogue in Corinth. It was a very special trip, which I will never forget!

Mary Ann B., St. Eugene, Fox Point

Wishing you a happy and blessed birthday, Archbishop Listecky! I so appreciate your wise, practical and insightful "Love One Another" reflections. You are willing to call them as you see them, and it is refreshing how logical and commonsensical your messages are! Thank you, Archbishop Listecky — the Church would benefit from more people like you!

Heidi M., Queen of Apostles, Pewaukee

Regional Masses of Thanksgiving

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee will celebrate six Masses of Thanksgiving for Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky at locations spread throughout the 10-county area.

Here are the dates, times and locations:

- **Tuesday, April 9:** St. Robert Parish, Union Grove, 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 2:** Lumen Christi, Mequon, 6:30 p.m.

- **Monday, May 13:** St. Katharine Drexel, Beaver Dam, 6:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, May 23:** St. Anthony on the Lake, Pewaukee, 6:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, May 30:** St. Rita, West Allis, 6:30 p.m.

- **Sunday, June 9:** Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee, 11 a.m.

A reception will follow each of the above.

With Gratitude for His Ministry and Leadership

V. Rev. Karl J. Kiser, SJ
and the Jesuits of the USA Midwest Province

**Offer Congratulations and Blessings to
Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi
on the Occasion of His 75th Birthday**



JESUITS
USA Midwest
Province

Parish Leaders Invited to Equip Day on Miscarriage, Infertility

Priests, lay ministers and other parish leaders are invited to the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis' upcoming Equip Day on March 19 to learn more about accompanying families who are experiencing miscarriage and infertility.

The day long workshop, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will be led by Matt Selby, Director of Adult and Marriage Formation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, and the director of Behold Your Child, a parish-based ministry for families who have or are experiencing prenatal or infant loss or stillbirth.

Attendees will also hear from Kryz Crawley, Director of Life's Connection, a local organization whose Hearts of Hope program offers support for families suffering a loss, as well as from Catholic Cemeteries, who offer free burial and support for those who experience miscarriage and stillbirth.

The workshop will be held at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, St. Francis.

These are issues facing a large percentage of Catholic families, noted Doug Ulaszek, Associate Director of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Office of Evangelization

and Catechesis.

"It happens so much," said Ulaszek. "And people don't always talk about it."

Research indicates that anywhere between 10 and 20 percent of known pregnancies will end in a loss, while the Centers for Disease Control has estimated that one in five married couples in the United States will struggle to achieve pregnancy after one year of trying.

As more Catholics who are encountering these struggles look to the Church for answers, clergy and lay ministers are being called upon in greater numbers to provide resources and support.

"When people come to the Church, sometimes priests get caught off guard and look back and say, 'Man, I wish I knew how to handle that better,'" said Ulaszek. "We want to give our parish leaders the tools to, when they hear about it or when someone does come forward looking for support, help them in the immediate term and support them in an ongoing way. It's not an issue that we solve in one meeting. It's a grieving process, and we want people, parishes and clergy to be able to really walk with and support

parents and couples."

The workshop is open to all members of the public, though Ulaszek emphasized that the programming will be geared toward equipping parish staff and leadership with ministry strategies.

This Equip Day is just the latest in a series of workshops that have been hosted over the past few years by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. Each workshop focuses on a different pastoral reality encountered by clergy and lay ministers, and aims — fittingly — to equip them with knowledge about the issue, resources for those experiencing it and pastoral strategies for ministry.

Past Equip Days have focused on gender theory, forgiveness, internet safety and sex exploitation, and Ulaszek said there's a long list of topics the office hopes to cover in the future.

Registration for the March 19 Equip Day on Miscarriage and Infertility is \$10. Those interested can register by emailing Jennifer Murphy at murphyjc@archmil.org or by visiting <https://archmil.regfox.com/equipday-031924>.

75 years ago our Lord formed you with great intent –
You have blessed our world greatly!

Happy Birthday Archbishop ListECKI!



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Wauwatosa, WI

Retreat Helps Couples Prepare for Marriage

From March 1-3, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Office of Evangelization and Catechesis hosted a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha.

Eighteen couples from around the archdiocese gathered for a weekend of presentations, couple discussions and prayer. The weekend marked the first overnight preparation retreat run by the archdiocese in recent memory, as well as the return of in-person archdiocesan marriage preparation since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The presentations came from two married couples, Doug and Beth Ulaszek of Wauwatosa and Jordan and Sheila Skiff of Plymouth. The team presented on essential marital skills like conflict management and budgeting, as well as about God's plan for marriage, love and relationships. The content for the latter pulled heavily from St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," a series of teachings the pope gave from 1979-84. Tori Franke, the archdiocese's Natural Family Planning Coordinator, also participated in the weekend, so that couples could learn how to incorporate NFP into their married life.

After each talk, engaged couples spent time reflecting on the material, first individually and then as a couple. This process not only gave couples ample room to discuss how the topics related to their relationship but also gave each couple a model for dialogue they can implement in their marriage. In this way, the retreat served as more than information — instead, it laid a foundation for open communication and common vision for each couple as



The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office of Evangelization and Catechesis welcomed 18 couples to the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha for a marriage preparation retreat March 1-3. (Submitted photos)



they approach the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Along with presentations and dialogue time, the weekend included opportunities for prayer and the


sacraments, including Mass, Reconciliation and adoration. Fr. Mark Niehaus, a priest in the Schoenstatt movement, celebrated Mass on Saturday evening with the couples,

where he recalled Schoenstatt founder Fr. Joseph Kentenich's teaching that in a certain way, married couples found their own religious community — they create a unique way of life, work and prayer together that, hopefully, reflects the love of the Blessed Trinity.

The evening Mass was one part of a "date night" atmosphere the retreat provided on Saturday evening. Before Mass, couples enjoyed a special candlelight dinner, with the dining room transformed into an intimate Italian bistro. Once Mass concluded, couples had a chance to socialize with one another. There was even the opportunity for dancing, with a local dance instructor teaching couples the rumba.

Couples finished their time away on Sunday morning with a final session and dialogue time, along with a final question and answer session led by the team couples. Throughout the weekend, couples had the opportunity to anonymously write questions for the team couples to answer. Couples asked questions about listening to God in prayer, setting boundaries with parents and in-laws, balancing spousal roles and more. Before leaving, couples made a list of further topics to discuss together and scheduled their next dialogue time to occur that coming week.


The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis intends to continue offering weekend marriage preparation retreats in the future, with another retreat scheduled from Nov. 8-10 at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center. Couples interested in attending future retreats can learn more at archmil.org/marriagepreparation.

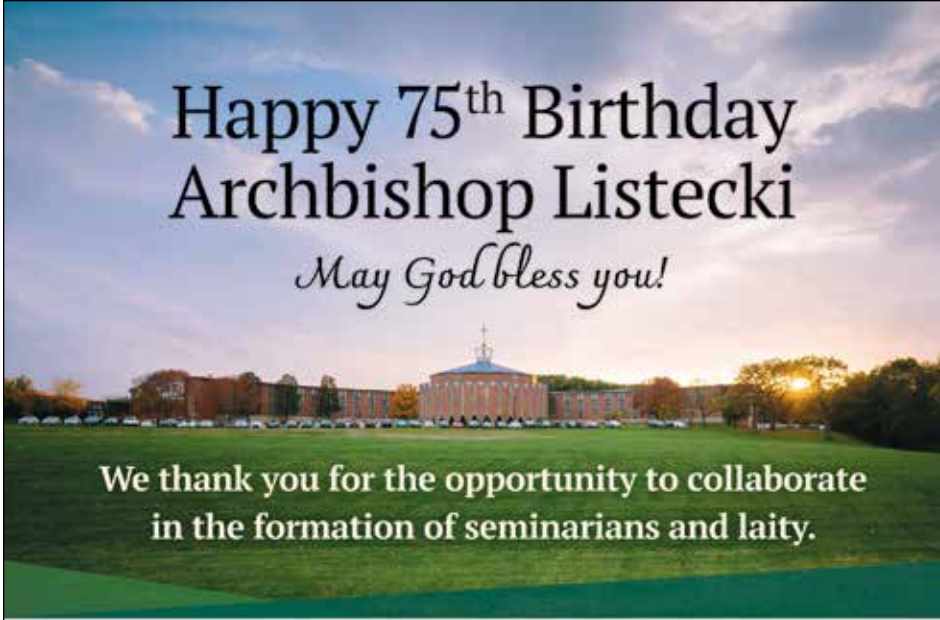


Happy Birthday,
Archbishop ListECKi!

*Congratulations on your
upcoming retirement!*


– The staff & parishioners
of Lumen Christi


LUMEN  CHRISTI
CATHOLIC CHURCH



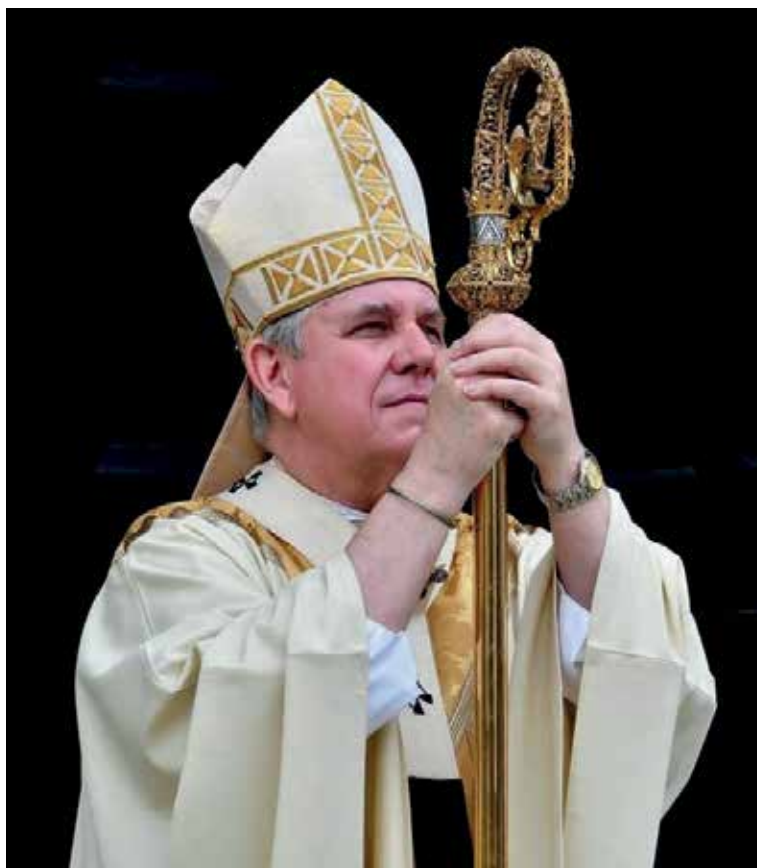
**Happy 75th Birthday
Archbishop ListECKi**
May God bless you!

We thank you for the opportunity to collaborate
in the formation of seminarians and laity.

 **Dehonians USA**
PRIESTS OF THE SACRED HEART


 **SACRED
HEART**
Seminary and
School of Theology

VISIT US: DehoniansUSA.org VISIT US: shsst.edu



Happy 75th Birthday
Archbishop ListECKi!

God bless you as you celebrate your birthday
and another year of faithful service in Christ!

 **MILWAUKEE
CATHOLIC HOME**
a life engaged

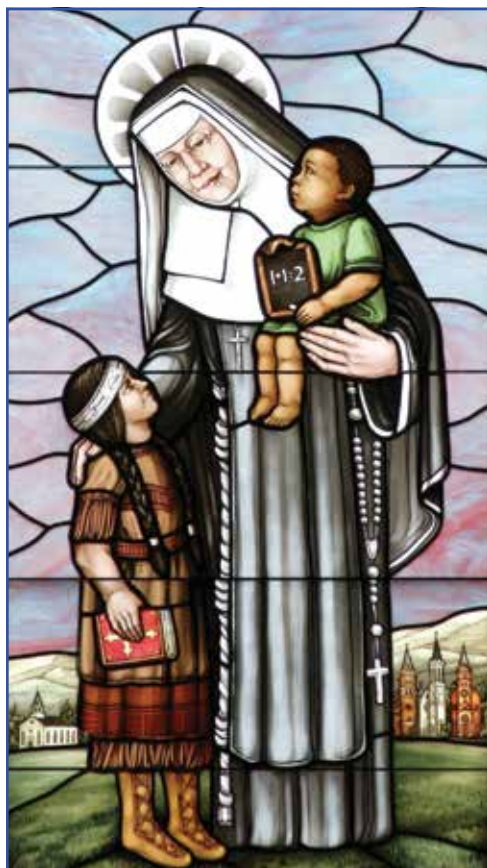
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CONGRATULATIONS
to **Archbishop Jerome ListECKi**
on his **75th birthday!**

**From Bishop Timothy L. Doherty and
Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi
of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana**



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA



*St. Katharine Drexel, St. Joseph,
Annunciation, St. Columbkille,
Holy Family, and St. John the
Baptist Parishes in Dodge County
wish Archbishop ListECKi a happy
birthday and many blessings in
the coming year!*



▲ The baseball team from Marian University in Fond du Lac ran into Wisconsin comedian (and Catholic school graduate) Charlie Berens at General Mitchell International Airport the morning of Friday, March 1. The team was on its way to play in a tournament in Davenport, Florida. (Photo courtesy of Marian University)



▲ Rich Mich from the state office of the Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$2,500 to Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI on Thursday, Feb. 29, during a Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon at Bristol Oaks Golf Club. (Submitted photo)



▲ Fr. Javier Rodriguez, O.F.M. Cap., was installed as the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Milwaukee, on Sunday, Feb. 11. Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines was the celebrant at Mass and presented Fr. Rodriguez to the community, parish staff, finance council and parish council. (Submitted photo)



▲ Diane and Joe Thome were Treasures of the Church individual award winners during a Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in Fond du Lac. (Submitted photo)

Congratulations Archbishop ListECKi on your 75th Birthday!



The Catholic Church in Southwestern Indiana



*May God generously
bless you for your pastoral
leadership in the
Archdiocese of Milwaukee,
in our Region and in the USCCB.*

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel
and the people of the Diocese of Evansville



The Most Reverend David J. Malloy,
and the clergy, religious and laity of the
Diocese of Rockford offer our prayerful best
wishes to **Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi**
as he celebrates his 75th birthday.
Ad multos annos!



Diocesan
Administration
Center

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Rockford, IL 61125

www.rockforddiocese.org
(815) 399-4300



▲ The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office for Hispanic Ministry hosted a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples in Spanish on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, St. Francis. (Submitted photo)



▲ Catholic Memorial High School teacher Mary Petrie welcomes more than 300 middle school students to the Waukesha high school on Tuesday, Feb. 27, for the annual STEM Challenge. (Submitted photo)



▲ Sr. Theresa Rozga accepts the Archbishop's Treasures of the Church Award for Religious Order on behalf of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joan of Antida was the recipient of during a Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. (Submitted photo)



▲ Alison Sergio from Health Care Network Inc. accepted the Archbishop's Treasures of the Church Award for Organization during a Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 29, at Bristol Oaks Golf Club. (Submitted photo)



The Milwaukee Archdiocesan Office for World Mission (OWM) acknowledges and appreciates Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi for his missionary heart and commitment to worldwide missionary activities of the Church.

Thank you for your spiritual leadership of La Sagrada Familia Parish and for supporting our efforts to engage the people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.



Contact us for more information on mission engagement & activity!

wmo@archmil.org | 414-758-2280 | <https://www.archmil.org/offices/world-mission.htm> | @worldmissionmke



HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY
Archbishop Jerome ListECKi
BLESSINGS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

We celebrate Archbishop ListECKi's many accomplishments. We applaud his visionary leadership and outstanding dedication to the people he shepherds. We are grateful to Archbishop for being a powerful force for good in our community. May we all follow his lead and Love One Another.

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*THANK YOU,
Archbishop ListECKi!*

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your love and support during your time in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

May God bless you on your birthday and in retirement.

You will always be in our prayers!



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*Happy Birthday
Archbishop ListECKi!*



May God bless you with happiness and good health.
We are grateful for your ministry.

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Jim Volkert, Fr. Ryan Ackmann and the



BURLINGTON-LYONS
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. MARY • ST. JOSEPH • ST. CHARLES

175 Years of Responding to God's Call

KRISTEN KUBISIAK
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC HERALD

The oldest foundation of vowed Franciscan women to be established in the United States is celebrating a big milestone: This year, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi mark 175 years of responding to God's call — in Milwaukee and beyond.

"We look pretty good for being that old, don't we?" quipped Sr. Celia Struck, O.S.F., who serves as convent librarian and archivist for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

Sr. Struck, 71, is the eighth youngest of the 117 Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in the Milwaukee area today, many of whom are retired and living in the convent on the Lake Michigan shore in St. Francis. These sisters minister primarily through prayer and presence — but over the years have had a far-reaching impact through their work as teachers, in health care, fighting for social justice and caring for people in need. Today, sisters are still active in various pastoral ministries and serve on boards of their eight corporate ministry organizations.

"Throughout our history, we have tried to address any urgent needs as they popped up," said Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, O.S.F., who serves as an associate director of the congregation. "God calls us as he sees a need, we accept the call — wherever it leads us — and try to be of service."

In 1849, the initial call came from Bishop John Martin Henni, who sought assistance serving the German immigrant population in his newly minted Diocese of Milwaukee, Sr. Struck said. A group of lay Franciscans, accompanied by their pastor and associate pastor — Fr. Francis Anthony Keppeler and Fr. Mathias Steiger, respectively — responded to the call.

Foundation Day for the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi was May 28, 1849 — about three months after the group's arrival. Otilie Dirr — known as Mother Aemiliana — was chosen to be leader. In December, they moved into the first convent on the grounds. The Assisium there today is a replica of the original structure.

Early Struggles

About two years after their arrival, the sisters were met with what would be the first of three major crises: the



▲ (From left) Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, O.S.F., Sr. Ann Kelley, O.S.F., and Sr. Celia Struck, O.S.F., reflect on the history of Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi congregation, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. (Photo by Kristen Kubisiak)

cholera epidemic. Their spiritual leaders, Fr. Keppeler and Fr. Steigler, succumbed to the disease — along with many others — making orphans of immigrant children and dashing the dreams of the sisters.

"I think it's a miracle that we have made it 175 years," Sr. Struck said. "There were bumps along the road in our history, but we had a lot of crises early on."

Under new spiritual direction, the sisters were charged with caring for the orphans, carrying out the "women's tasks" at the growing seminary, and providing Christian instruction to the school-age children. At that time, the seminary limited the number of new members to the convent strictly to those needed to do the work in the seminary.

And so came the second crisis.

"Our six foundresses left the convent in 1860 because of the demands placed upon them by the seminary," Sr. Struck said. "They did the mending, housework, laundry and cooking. While the seminary was being built, there

were 80 workmen the sisters fed. They also made bricks for the building. They had very little time for their own religious life."

After that departure, only 11 sisters and postulants remained in the convent. In the coming years, the seminary built a new convent for the sisters at a cost of \$3,500, with the sisters agreeing to work at the seminary — but payment proved unreliable. When Mother Antonia Zimmer became the new leader of the congregation, one of her goals was to secure a Motherhouse independent of the seminary — and she did just that.

"She moved the Motherhouse to Jefferson, Wisconsin, making the convent here more like a mission — it wasn't the Motherhouse any longer at that point," Sr. Struck said.

The third major crisis occurred in 1873, when Mother Antonia decided to move the congregation from the Diocese of Milwaukee to La Crosse. The majority of

the sisters in Milwaukee moved to La Crosse, Sr. Struck said, while 37 sisters and one postulant stayed as the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee.

“When you consider those three crises that happened between 1851 and 1873, it’s amazing we are still here,” Sr. Struck said.

Focus on Education

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi were called to serve in many ways over the previous century, but their initial ministry was instruction in the Catholic faith. Between 1865 and 1873, they established teaching missions in Wisconsin, Iowa and Ohio.

“In the beginning, our focus was primarily educating children — mainly in the Midwest,” said Sr. Struck.

In the early 1900s, the sisters were pioneers for the developmentally disabled, opening St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children in Jefferson in 1904. A similar model by the same name was later adopted in Tinley Park, Illinois. Both ministries continue to this day.

They also established a number of other schools, including St. Mary’s Academy — a Catholic high school for girls — and St. Clare Junior College, where the sisters received their training as teachers. Eventually, St. Clare became a four-year college and opened to lay women under the new name of Cardinal Stritch College. In the 1960s, Cardinal Stritch moved to Fox Point. It became co-ed in 1970 and earned university status in 1998.

“We wanted to help provide advanced education to those who really had little opportunity or the funding to cover it,” Sr. Struck said.

St. Mary’s closed in 1991 and Cardinal Stritch celebrated its final commencement in May 2023.

Expanding Corporate Ministries

After the Second Vatican Council, the door to change was opened. Sisters



▲ Sr. Sylvia Anne Sheldon, O.S.F., looks through the Heritage Museum, located in the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Motherhouse in St. Francis, which houses many important pieces of history for the congregation. (Photo by Kristen Kubisiak)

moved beyond teaching into the fields of social work, health care, parish administration and other pastoral ministries. Providing education for children with special needs continued to be an area of focus.

In 1968, Sr. Joanne Marie Kliebhan, O.S.F., who was the head of the Special Education Department at Cardinal Stritch, led the establishment of the St. Francis Children’s Center. The sisters also provided care for adults with disabilities, as well as the frail and elderly. In 1983, Sr. Edna Lonergan, O.S.F., opened St. Ann Adult Day Care in the basement of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi convent. It has grown into the St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, with two locations in Milwaukee.

The sisters sponsor Canticle Court and Juniper Court in St. Francis, founded in 1987 and 1994, to provide affordable housing and independent living for older adults, and the Cardinal Cushing Centers in Massachusetts.

In 2001, the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore merged with the Sisters of St.

Francis of Assisi, adding 44 sisters and bringing three corporate ministries with them.

Lay Associates

Like other religious communities of women, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi has experienced a decline in members over the years. What has grown, however, is the number of lay women and men who feel God’s call to holiness and embrace the mission of Jesus.

“We call them ‘associates,’” said Sr. Ann Kelley, who is Co-Director of the Office of Associate Relationship. “They are lay people who embrace our spirituality and values, and who are interested in being companions on the spiritual journey.”

The associate program started about 40 years ago, Sr. Kelley said, and today has about 70 members.

“They are carrying on our legacy — we call them charism carriers — because they, too, have many of the deep spiritual gifts that we have,” Sr. Kelley said, “But they live them in their own lay lives.”

For some associates, the program fills a need that is not being met in their own parish communities. Associates gather regularly in small faith sharing groups with sisters and other associates for prayer, discussion and celebration.

“We invite them to spirituality-related events, educational opportunities and social gatherings,” Sr. Kelley said.

Global Sisterhood

The sisters are also making an impact across the world, offering support and education since 1998 to the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis, who serve in Cameroon and other countries. Over the years, the Tertiary Sisters and the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi have shared exchanges, including providing housing for sisters from Cameroon to pursue their education here. The congregations keep in touch using the internet-based video communication platform Zoom.

The Franciscan Legacy

Preparations are under way to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, with several events scheduled to take place this year. The sisters look to the future ready to answer whatever call may be next.

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, Director of the congregation, noted the 175th anniversary year coincides with the 800th anniversary of two events in the life of St. Francis: the imprint of the wounds of the cross in his flesh, also called the Stigmata, and the handwritten message he gave to Brother Leo, known as the Blessing of Leo and The Praises of God.

“These events remind me that over these 175 years, our sisters have truly ministered to those wounded often at the hands of others, and, in the midst of our own challenges, continue to praise God for all the good bestowed on us now and always,” Sr. Schatzlein said.

**“No angel is able to count the blessings,
which even on a single day, God gives to a person.”**

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger (1797-1879) SSND Foundress
Letter #3, September 22, 1824



Archbishop ListECKI with Jan Gregorcich, SSND

**75th birthday blessings to
Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI**



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Happy 75th Birthday and Retirement Blessings to Archbishop Jerome ListECKI!



With heartfelt joy and immense gratitude, we celebrate Archbishop Jerome ListECKI's 75th birthday and his well-deserved retirement. Archbishop ListECKI, a distinguished graduate of Mundelein Seminary, has faithfully served the Church as a devoted Shepherd and accomplished teacher, always embodying the Heart of Christ.

On this momentous occasion, we extend our prayers and warmest wishes to him, along with his family, friends, and the people of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.



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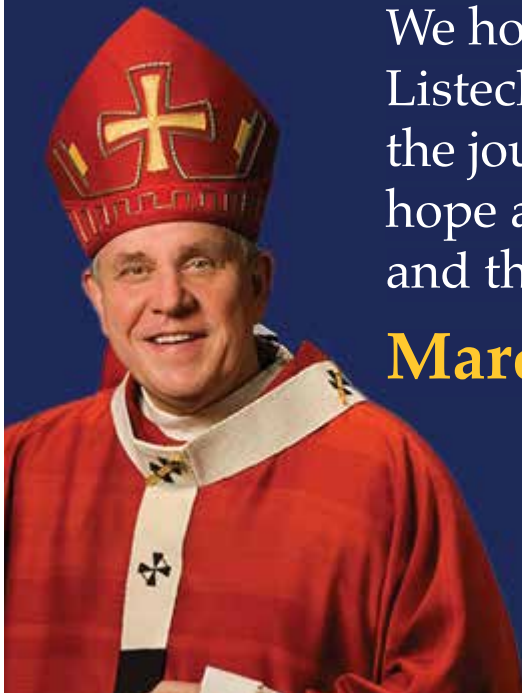
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We honor and share our gratitude for The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecky as he celebrates his 75th birthday. Join us in commemorating the journey of a man who has dedicated his life to the service of faith, hope and charity. May this milestone birthday be filled with joy, love, and the continued blessings of God's grace.

Marquette University High School | AMDG



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Happy Birthday, Archbishop!

*We are forever grateful for
your 14 years of support and guidance.
May your blessings be many.*

*With love,
The Stemper Family*



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**Happy 75th Birthday
Archbishop Listeck!**

St. Francis Borgia Parish gives thanks for the gift of your life!
We pray God blesses you abundantly.



2024 Padre Serra Basketball Tournament Schedule

All games at Dominican High School, 120 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay

BOYS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Game 1: St. Jude the Apostle (Wauwatosa) vs. St. Charles Borromeo (Milwaukee)/Divine Mercy (South Milwaukee)/St. Gregory (Milwaukee), 10:30 a.m.

Game 2: Blessed Savior (Milwaukee) vs. Lumen Christi (Mequon), 11:30 a.m.

Game 3: St. Sebastian (Milwaukee) vs. All Saints (Kenosha), 12:45 p.m.

Game 4: St. Mary (Menomonee Falls) #2 vs. St. Matthias (Milwaukee), 1:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Game 8: Messmer St. Rose (Milwaukee) vs. St. Mary (Hales Corners), 1 p.m.

Game 9: St. Monica (Whitefish Bay) vs. St. Charles (Hartland), 2:15 p.m.

Game 10: St. Alphonsus (Greendale) vs. St. Mary's Visitation (Elm Grove), 3:15 p.m.

Game 11: Christ King (Wauwatosa) vs. Blessed Sacrament/Our Lady Queen of Peace (Milwaukee), 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Game 12: Holy Apostles (New Berlin) vs. St. Dominic (Brookfield), 5:30 p.m.

Game 13: Christ Child Academy (Sheboygan) vs. St. Jerome (Oconomowoc)/St. Bruno (Dousman), 6:30 p.m.

Game 14: St. John Vianney (Brookfield) vs. St. Lucy (Racine), 7:45 p.m.

Game 15: John Paul II Academy/St. Rita (Racine) vs. Messmer St. Mary (Milwaukee), 8:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Game 22: Winner 2 vs. Winner 10, 12:45 p.m.

Game 23: St. Robert (Shorewood) vs. Winner 11, 1:45 p.m.

Game 24: Winner 1 vs. Winner 12, 3 p.m.

Game 25: Burlington Catholic vs. Winner 14, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Game 28: Winner 4 vs. Winner 15, 2:15 p.m.

Game 29: Waukesha Catholic vs. Winner 13, 3:15 p.m.

Game 30: Winner 3 vs. Winner 8, 4:30 p.m.

Game 31: St. Mary (Menomonee Falls) #1 vs. Winner 9, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Game 32: Winner 28 vs. Winner 29, 5:30 p.m.

Game 33: Winner 24 vs. Winner 25, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Game 38: Winner 30 vs. Winner 31, 7:45 p.m.

Game 39: Winner 22 vs. Winner 23, 8:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 (SEMIFINALS)

Game 42: Winner 32 vs. Winner 33, 12:45 p.m.

Game 43: Winner 38 vs. Winner 39, 1:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Third Place Game: Loser 42 vs. Loser 43, 4 p.m.

Championship Game: Winner 42 vs. Winner 43, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Game 5: St. Monica (Whitefish Bay) vs. Burlington Catholic, 3 p.m.

Game 6: St. Leonard (Muskego) vs. St. Francis Borgia (Cedarburg), 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Game 7: St. John the Baptist (Plymouth) vs. Divine Mercy (South Milwaukee)/St. Thomas Aquinas (Milwaukee), noon

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Game 16: St. John Vianney (Brookfield)/St. Mary's Visitation (Elm Grove)/St. Joseph (Wauwatosa) vs. Winner 7, 5:30 p.m.

Game 17: Waukesha Catholic vs. St. Charles (Hartland), 6:30 p.m.

Game 18: St. Rita (Racine) vs. St. Mary Menomonee Falls, 7:45 p.m.

Game 19: Holy Apostles (New Berlin) vs. Winner 6, 8:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Game 20: Holy Family (Whitefish Bay) vs. St. Jude (Wauwatosa), 10:30 a.m.

Game 21: St. John the Evangelist (Greenfield)/Mary Queens of Saints (West Allis)/St. Gregory (Milwaukee)/St. Matthias (Milwaukee) vs. St. Dominic (Brookfield), 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Game 26: St. Joseph (Racine) vs. Winner 5, noon

Game 27: St. Mary (Hales Corners) vs. Lumen Christi (Mequon), 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Game 34: Winner 20 vs. Winner 27, 7:45 p.m.

Game 35: Winner 17 vs. Winner 26, 8:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Game 36: Winner 19 vs. Winner 21, 5:30 p.m.

Game 37: Winner 16 vs. Winner 18, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 (SEMIFINALS)

Game 40: Winner 36 vs. Winner 37, 10:30 a.m.

Game 41: Winner 34 vs. Winner 35, 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Third Place Game: Loser 40 vs. Loser 41, 1 p.m.

Championship Game: Winner 40 vs. Winner 41, 2:30 p.m.



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**THE MOST
REVEREND
ARCHBISHOP
JEROME
LISTECKI.**

On this remarkable milestone of your 75th birthday and well-deserved retirement, with gratitude we celebrate your journey of service, faith, and leadership. We thank you for your dedication to Catholic education throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. We offer prayers and blessings for your retirement, and may God continue to bless you abundantly in all your future endeavors.



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Retreat Schedule 2024

March 22 – 24, 2024
Weekend Retreats for Men
“Following in the Footsteps of The Redeemer”
Presenters: The Retreat Team

March 15 — 17, 2024
Weekend Retreats for Women
“Following in the Footsteps of The Redeemer”
Presenters: The Retreat Team


Holy Week Silent Preached Retreat
March 25 — 30, 2024
“Following in the Footsteps of The Redeemer”
Presenters: The Retreat Team

Midweek Silent Preached Retreat for Women
April 9 – 11, 2024
“All Shall be Well” — The Spirituality of Julian Of Norwich
Presenter: Mrs. Jennifer Christ

April 13, 2024 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Grief Retreat “Grieving at a time of Suicide”
Presenters: Peggy Weber, RN, MSN and Fr. Ted Larson, C.Ss.R

Contact the Retreat Center to register or for more information.

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Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi, Happy 75th Birthday on March 12th. Enjoy your special day.

You have been an outstanding Archbishop around the 10-county Archdiocese of Milwaukee since 2010 for us. You had many issues to deal with. I always admired your leadership style. I am going to miss reading all of your “Love One Another” issues.

God’s Many Blessings on Your Retirement,

Anita L. Wucherer
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Member of
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St. Matthew Parish

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Friday, March 22
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CATHOLIC NEWS

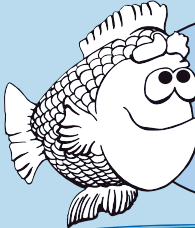
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The Grace Sombrero

A friend and I share an invisible grace hat. It is a gentle way of reminding ourselves to be a little kinder, a little less judgmental and/or a little more loving. If one of us is struggling, the other tosses this hat over as a way of remembering to love our neighbor.

I noticed, though, that my frustrations with those around me were increasing and I was having more trouble (than usual) being kind and loving and giving the benefit of the doubt. I found that more and more I was responding to the humanness of those around me in a rather un-Christian way. I announced one day that a hat wasn't sufficient — I needed a grace sombrero. It was both humorous and sad. When I reflected on the situation, I realized the problem wasn't other people. The problem was me.

Despite a desire to love as Jesus loves, I was failing. Internal disquiet is a sure sign something is amiss interiorly. I didn't like who I was becoming. Judgment is not a good look on anyone.

After bringing this to prayer, I found some advice from St. Teresa of Calcutta about humility — a virtue that asks us for a mindset that seems unnatural but can help us love others better. I am not good at this. But I am trying.



REAL LIFE. REAL FAITH.

MERRIDITH FREDIANI

1 – Mind your own business. I reflected on Jesus' words to Peter in John's Gospel, "What concern of it is yours? You follow me." (John 21:22) My need for a grace hat that grew into a sombrero came from being concerned about things that aren't mine to be concerned about. If I stay in my lane and follow Jesus, I will be keeping my gaze on what's important.

2 – Don't desire to manage other people's affairs. Humility requires me to let go of the notion that I know what's best because I don't. I view the world through my own sinful lens, and I don't know the whole story, much less what is the correct path forward for someone else. I'll take care of myself.

3 – Avoid curiosity. That desire to

be in the know? That attitude of *schadenfreude*; a certain pleasure in knowing someone "got what they deserved"? That is not based in love. I think *schadenfreude* and curiosity are linked and need to go away.

4 – Pass over the mistakes of others. It's easy to see the speck in another's eye while ignoring the plank in my own. I know why I mess up and can offer excellent and reasonable excuses, but allowing that in someone else, especially when I'm inconvenienced, is a whole other story. I need to give others the same grace I want from them.

5 – Accept insults and injuries and **6 – Accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked.** Why should I accept these things? Shouldn't I be treated well all the time? Well, no. It's true I am a beloved daughter of God, but Jesus suffered all this and he's the Son of God. Jesus was insulted, beaten and killed during his Passion. Pharisees disliked him then, and many who don't accept his teachings dislike him now. Jesus offers them love and mercy. When I experience indignity, I am in the best possible company — that of Jesus Christ, who knows how it feels and assures me of my place in his family. He told us we would suffer for love of

him. He wasn't wrong. From him, I can learn to be loving and merciful.

7 – Be kind and gentle under provocation. Deep breath here because my first unholy response is to give as good as I get. That is not what we are directed to do by St. Teresa or Jesus. We should treat others how we want to be treated, not as they treat us. This is where we see holiness in a person. Being kind to someone who is unkind takes a lot of help from God.

Actually, all of these suggestions require a lot of help from God, and I'm realizing that humility is not something I can accomplish on my own. When I tried that, I had to upgrade to a sombrero. The only way I can do this is through a giant grace infusion from Jesus. I believe a prayer like that is on the slam dunk of answered prayers list. If I desire to live like Jesus and am after his heart, I need to swallow my pride and ask for help. What he asks is big but not impossible because with God all things are possible.

So, this year, my hope is to retire the grace sombrero and lean on the Lord. I pray that I can put aside that which is getting in the way and receive from him what I need to truly love my neighbor.



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LIVING OUR FAITH
Archbishop ListECKI's Weekly Podcast



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Cross Catholic Outreach's Relief Efforts Are Blessing Ukraine War Survivors in Three Key Ways

Cross Catholic Outreach continues to be involved in efforts to support Ukraine's children and families, and its programs are having a major impact, garnering heartfelt thanks from several Catholic leaders across Europe. The Holy Father also bestowed an Apostolic Blessing on Cross Catholic Outreach and its supporters through Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who heads the Vatican's Dicastery for the Service of Charity.

The ministry's outreaches have focused on supplying food, shelter and medical resources — basic human needs that must be addressed at a time like this.

"Our approach in Ukraine was similar to the way we address poverty in the developing world, which is our primary area of service," explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. "We don't presume to know how to best solve the problems a local ministry team is facing. We ask them what will further their work and provide the specific resources they need. It's the most effective way to provide relief, especially after a disaster or in an emergency situation like this one."

Sagarino went on to explain that one of

the first requests Cross Catholic Outreach received was for an ambulance that could be used as a mobile medical clinic, and the team there worked with Cardinal Krajewski to help provide that vehicle.

"An ambulance is a very specific asset, and when one is needed, you must find a way to supply it quickly and efficiently. That is what Cross Catholic Outreach does best. We can move quickly and supply exactly what our partners need to accomplish their goals," Sagarino said.

In the Archdiocese of Przemyśl, Poland, Cross Catholic Outreach and U.S. donors have helped provide refugees with relief in the form of food, emergency shelter, trauma therapy, medical care, spiritual counseling and prayer.

"The archdiocese is pursuing a plan that will assist families in finding secure long-term living conditions, but there is still a need to offer direct and immediate help to those just entering the country," Sagarino explained.

"It is painful to see the fear and suffering in the eyes of the refugees fleeing Ukraine, but we should not shrink back from those images because they are a call to action — a call from



The interior of one of the ambulances provided to supply medical care in Ukraine.



Missile and artillery damage has made homes in Ukraine unsafe. Those who remain have had their spirits buoyed by visits from Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who has entered the war zone to help those in need of important necessities.

God. He wants us to manifest his love for these families and to help them in their hour of need."

In Moldova, Cross Catholic Outreach and its donors are also providing Ukrainian refugees with important support. The ministry has sent baby diapers, blankets, new clothing for winter (jackets, sweatshirts, etc.), hygiene supplies and mobility aids (canes, crutches and walkers) to meet the most immediate needs of individuals and families.

"We've accomplished a lot, but much more needs to be done," Sagarino said. "Many of the families we are helping have lost everything. Their homes have been turned to

rubble, and many are entering refugee camps with little more than the clothes on their backs. This is a humanitarian crisis, and we in the Church need to be at the forefront in providing compassionate relief!"

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic's outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03026, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

U.S. Catholic Offers Matching Gift to Encourage Others To Help Ukraine's Families

If you are interested in making a contribution to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine war, now is the perfect time to make that donation. With media coverage on the war continuing to decline, a dedicated Catholic in the U.S. — concerned that families fleeing that conflict might begin losing public support just as they need it most — has decided to sponsor a matching gift opportunity that will enable other Catholics to double the impact of their relief gifts up to \$50,000.

His hope is that this call to action and the match being offered will generate the funds needed by Catholic missions in Poland and Ukraine to supply struggling refugee families with food, safe shelter and other necessities as they endure another harsh winter.

“We’re thrilled to play a role in this effort too,” explained Michele Sagarino, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, the ministry managing the matching gift opportunity. According to Sagarino, Cross Catholic Outreach has been involved in providing food, medical resources and other aid to Ukrainian children and families since the conflict began, and it has developed an effective network for distributing aid during that process. Some of its most effective outreaches have involved Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, who heads the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Service of Charity.

“In my recent meeting with Cardinal Krajewski, I was moved by his concern for the people this war has impacted. It was clear he wanted to provide those families with emergency relief as quickly as possible,” Sagarino said.

In the early months of the conflict, almost every American Catholic was aware of the challenges displaced families were facing.

“We all saw the terrible destruction on our television screens,” Sagarino said. “Modern office buildings and factories collapsed before our eyes. There were scenes of frightened survivors fleeing missile and artillery barrages, and we saw lines of women and children frantically looking for passage to safer cities or the refugee centers that were being set up in border towns in Poland. It was horrific, and many Americans showed their characteristic generosity by sending donations to help end that suffering.”

At that time, Catholic Church leaders were



Displaced Ukrainians line up for supplies provided by Catholic ministries. Much has been accomplished, but more must be done.

also mobilizing in areas where refugees were arriving, and a network of shelters and services was established. It is this perfectly positioned response team Sagarino is hoping U.S. donors will continue to support using the matching gift opportunity at hand.

“If donors respond, we will be able to help Ukrainian war survivors by providing medical aid and other resources through key partners — Cardinal Krajewski; Caritas in Veritate; and the Archdiocese of Przemyśl, Poland, which is located near the Ukrainian border. Each of these partners is directly involved in relief efforts, either in Ukraine or in neighboring countries accepting refugees,” Sagarino explained.

She added that Cardinal Krajewski has already been provided with ambulances so emergency medical services could be brought directly to areas with urgent needs.

“We also helped fund generators, clothing and food for families still in Ukraine and those who had fled the country,” she said.

In the case of Caritas in Veritate, Cross Catholic Outreach supported internally displaced children and families in the

Ukrainian communities of Lutsk, Struga and Nowa Uszyca with much-needed food, water and spiritual support. Its work with the Archdiocese of Przemyśl focused on the care and resettlement of Ukrainian refugees, specifically helping with food, temporary shelters and trauma therapy.

While Cross Catholic Outreach is best known for its development work in other parts of the world, Sagarino said she feels called to be involved.

“The needs of war survivors is weighing heavily on our hearts, and this special effort won’t diminish our relief efforts in Haiti, Guatemala, Kenya and other developing countries,” she said. “This mission also fits perfectly with our traditional strategy for providing help overseas. We have always worked through Catholic missions serving people on the margins, supplying them with the resources they need to serve more effectively.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper, scan the QR code, or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC03026, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



Left in Suffering: The Way of the Leper

In the final Sunday before Lent, we read from Mark's Gospel about the leper who was healed by Jesus. This leper defies Jesus' command to keep silent about his healing and proceeds to proclaim the healing in the land. Imagine the wonder that was proclaimed in the land at this healing. What we do not hear in this story, though, is what happened when this healed leper encountered another leper who wasn't healed. What would that exchange have looked like? What about a leper who was left to continue suffering from their sickness? Jesus loved the healed leper so much that he healed him, but does Jesus not love all lepers such that he would find them worthy of healing?

If we are not careful, we can take our health status for granted. If we are one



CATHOLIC PARENTING

ANDI BOCHTE

of the chosen who has been healed from infirmity, we should take care to look to our left and to our right, and we will be reminded that this is not the case for everyone. Jesus doesn't heal all of us from our sicknesses here on earth. This is such a painful reality for many

of us who suffer from physical and/or mental health challenges. But we can see, especially in the Lenten season, the real gift that we are given when we are left like the unhealed leper.

While any of us would surely sign up immediately should there be a call for healing, for those who don't make the list, Jesus reminds us in Lent that he chose suffering. He chose the cross. And as much as Jesus loved the leper he healed, how much love does Jesus have for those whom he allows to remain in their suffering? He loves them indescribably much.

Those who are suffering are the most vulnerable in society. They are the broken, the downcast, the lame, the deaf and the depressed. The suffering are the orphan and the widow, the paralyzed, the abused and the alcoholics. Rather than question Jesus' love for us when we are left in our suffering, we must recognize that this is the greatest love that Jesus can have for us. It is so great because suffering was not too good for Jesus. When we are left to suffer, we are gifted with the opportunity to be a light in the darkness of suffering. We should be humbled at this task. If we accept our sufferings, no matter how great, we can bring Jesus' love to the suffering. We might not proclaim love of healing, but rather, we proclaim Christ crucified. We proclaim that in our suffering, we are not alone. That yes, we are fellow brothers and sisters in suffering and Jesus is with us and in us.

Perhaps one of the reasons that Jesus asked the healed leper to be silent was out of respect for those who are to remain in suffering. Not everyone would be healed as the leper was healed.

Jesus is the patron of the suffering, and it would be uncharacteristic of Jesus to tell someone to proclaim loudly of his healing because Jesus would have known of those who would be selected to continue in their suffering.

This should be a caution for those who are healed. The caution is not preventative of our proclamations of Jesus' healing ability. But rather, recognition and charity of the reality that many are left to suffer. So, if you or a loved one has been healed by Jesus, rejoice. What a blessing. But this Lent, let us also remember those left in suffering. May we never be so healed that we forget about our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply here and now that we forget how to love them.

When we have been healed, we so easily forget how to love. We turn to giving advice and criticism of those that are mired in suffering. We look at the suffering with skepticism and pity. Maybe we even ask, as the disciples did, what that person must have done to suffer so much. The reality of the virtue of charity is that charity demands that we touch the suffering of those around us. Problem solving helps us avoid the hurt of our suffering brother or sister. To really love the suffering, we will feel discomfort and pain. True empathy of the suffering hurts. Jesus' acceptance of suffering hurt. It was lonely and miserable. So, we should not be surprised that when we encounter suffering, it will hurt. But let us not be afraid of how much it hurts and rather concern ourselves with facing the suffering, whether we are healed or not, and walk in charity with our Lord in suffering.

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CATHOLIC HERALD

Christ is the Light in the Darkness

One of the most beautiful traditions that we do as Catholics during Lent is to pray the Stations of the Cross. We reflect on the whole journey of the Passion and Death of our Lord. Some versions of the Stations of the Cross help us reflect not only on the suffering of Christ, but also the suffering of our brothers and sisters, including our suffering connected to Jesus' cross. In our difficult lives, the darkness seems so real and overwhelming. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the first reading, telling the story of old Israel (a story of unfaithfulness, stubborn selfishness, destruction and exile) reminds us how often human history has been filled with darkness, right down to our day. In the second reading from the letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul confidently confronts this darkness: for him, reliance upon false and selfish securities is to embrace death.

If we are inclined to feel demoralized at this point in our Lenten journey, we are invited by these readings to find again the source of new energy and encouragement. Amid the deepest darkness, the true Light shines. Old Israel finds that their foolishness and selfishness will not frustrate God's designs. The Lord inspired Cyrus, the king of Persia, to send the remnant of Israel back to rebuild the temple. St. Paul announces to those who are in danger of losing their way the astounding truth at the center of our faith: God's gift to a lost world is new life in Christ, our redeemed humanity is God's "work of art." We each have our part to play in the realization of God's salvation.

But this great hope is only possible by the cross. In the Gospel, Jesus explains to us how salvation works. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

FR. J. ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

Ephesians 2: 4-10

John 3: 14-21

desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so we can look to him and believe and have eternal life. This is a reference to Numbers 24:1-9, where God provided salvation from death for the people of Israel from venomous serpents by looking at an image of a bronze serpent that Moses put onto a pole. The serpents were the consequence of the rebellion and sin among God's people, but they could find salvation from death through an act of faith by looking at the bronze serpent to live. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that this event foreshadows his own death, where he would be lifted up. We can look back and know that this is about Jesus' crucifixion. The main idea, though, is that God provides a way of salvation that is completely dependent on faith, where one can look to Jesus and live. Jesus describes this as believing and having eternal life, which is not a static faith, or just affirming some truth about God, but a faith that is rooted in following and being united with Jesus. All this is possible because of God's perfect love toward humanity. But it is especially

the climax of these readings, the words spoken to Nicodemus, by Jesus, the Light of the World, that by our belief we are saved. These words are perhaps the most quoted of the Gospels. Let us not take them for granted but take them to heart and rejoice in the new life they bring: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." A world weighed down by the darkness of sin and death must know, Jesus says, that he came from the Father, not "to condemn" but to bring reconciliation and life.

It is so important for us to understand what these verses teach about the heart of God. No one had to twist God's arm or force him to love sinners in this broken world. Jesus did not persuade

God to show us mercy or to send him for our salvation. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us and therefore sent his Son so we should not perish but have eternal life. God's disposition toward his people did not change from anger to love when the Word became flesh, rather the Word became flesh because of God's great love for us. His response to our helplessness and our sin was to make a way for us to be saved.

To believe in Jesus is to accept his gift of love that we did not deserve but so much need. To believe in the Son is to accept that we are not well and to recognize that he is our medicine and Divine Physician. Brothers and sisters, let us believe in the Son. Let us believe in his grace. Let us believe in his providence. Let us believe in his gift of salvation.

The Good News

A weekly encouraging message from Archbishop ListECKI!

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

www.archmil.org/Good-News

● FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Mamma Mia! Presented by St. Thomas More: 7 p.m., St. Thomas More High School, 2601 E. Morgan Ave., Milwaukee. Future performances are March 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17. Tickets are \$5 for students, children and STM alumni; \$8 for seniors; and \$14 for adults. For more information, visit tmore.org, click "QuickLinks" and select "TicketSpicket."

Cheese-Stuffed Shell Dinner: 4:30 to 7 p.m., Holy Rosary, 4400 22nd Ave., Kenosha. Dinner costs \$12. Also held March 22.

Fish Fry: 4:30 to 7 p.m., St. Mary, 7307 40th Ave., Kenosha. Dinner costs \$15. Also held on March 22.

Fish Fry: 4:30 to 7 p.m., St. Luke, 18000 W. Greenfield Ave., Brookfield. McNamara McCarty School of Irish Dance performing. Fish is \$13 and shrimp is \$14. Also held on March 22.

● SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Men of Christ Conference: Various locations. Join the Men of Christ apostolate and thousands of fellow Catholic men discover how to live their vocation courageously. For more information, visit menofchrist.net.

Mass in Honor of St. Patrick: 8:30 a.m., St. Patrick, 723 W. Washington St., Milwaukee. Held prior to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's 56th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Milwaukee.

● SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Celebrating the Gift of the Stigmata: 1 to 3:30 p.m., St. Joseph Center, 1501 S. Layton Blvd. (Greenfield Avenue at 27th Street), Milwaukee. Presentation via Zoom by Sr. Gabriele Uhlein, O.S.F.

followed by Stations of the Cross. Freewill donations gratefully accepted. Details: www.sssf.org.

Lenten Mission: 6:30 p.m., St. Vincent Pallotti, 201 N. 76th St., Milwaukee. Join the parishes of St. Vincent and St. Therese to journey into deeper relationship with the Lord through prayer, reflections, music and visual aids. The second evening of this two-part series is held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, at St. Therese, 9525 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee. RSVP at 414-771-2500.

● THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Lumen Christi, (St. Cecilia Hall), 2750 W. Mequon Road, Mequon. This traveling exhibit offers a self-guided tour of 158 Eucharistic miracles. Also open Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Joseph Bowls Supper: 4:45 to 6:15 p.m., St. Joseph Center, 1501 S. Layton Blvd. (Greenfield Avenue at 27th Street), Milwaukee. Soup supper with a handmade bowl to take home. Proceeds benefit the School Sisters of St. Francis' hunger ministries in India, on the Juarez-El Paso border, and with Milwaukee's Sisters Program South. Suggested donation is \$30, but any amount is appreciated. Families welcome. Register in advance: www.sssf.org.

● FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Mary's Way Stations of the Cross: 6:30 p.m., St. Boniface, W204 N11940 Goldendale Road, Germantown. Experience what Mary's heart and eyes saw as Jesus carried his cross to Calvary.

● SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally (High School and Middle School): 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Carroll University (Shattuck Music Center), 218 N. East Ave., Waukesha.

► HERALD OF HOPE, FROM PAGE 3

maximum service to people in need. The Catholic Charities board aggressively scrutinizes programs, assuring they reflect Catholic teaching. Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheons highlight individuals, organizations and religious who have exemplified charitable efforts on behalf of our society. These examples emphasize that the work of charity belongs to all of us. I envision Catholic Charities growing in its response to needs presented by our brothers and sisters.

The very backbone of the archdiocese is our parish communities. We are called together to worship every Sunday and celebrate the sacrifice of the Mass. It is the Eucharist that boldly proclaims that the Real Presence of Jesus Christ is given to us. We then can receive that Christ and take him into the world.

In recent years, with the increasing demands on our priests, we have started to examine how our parishes might be realigned in order to better

serve the pastoral needs of various areas. Shifting populations have generated a need to assess how our priests can best provide for the needs of their faithful. The future demand that Catholics know their faith and the role of the priest as teacher, for the sake of Catholic identity, will be critical. I envision a future where parishes will help individuals to navigate through the continued problems presented by secularism. Through prayer, the sacraments and association with other like-minded Catholics, the parish will continue to provide individuals with the instruments they need to grow in holiness.

My future vision is prophetic. It doesn't foretell the future; however, like all good prophets I examine the signs, and the signs of faith are good and strong. Although at some time, I will no longer be the archbishop, I will be around to challenge us through the words of Jesus, who said in John 13:34, "Love one another as I have loved you."



Classifieds

FOR SALE

DOUBLE GLASS NICHE in Ledgeview Memorial Park in Fond du Lac, WI. Our asking price: \$5,000 or best offer. Cost direct from provider would be \$8,749. Can send numerous photos as requested. Call Brian at **920-539-5464**.

SINGLE CEMETERY PLOT for sale in desirable area at Holy Family Cemetery. Block 54, Lot 136, #5. Retail value \$1750, asking \$850. Contact Diane at 414-520-3280 or dianecz@aol.com

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PERSONALS

PLEASE PRAY for all the souls in purgatory.

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COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ
CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in southeastern Wisconsin, in a small town in the Lake Geneva area called Williams Bay, but my parents are both from Chicago and all of my extended family was still in Chicago, so we would go see them pretty much every weekend. My mom was the youngest of six — a big Irish Catholic family — and my dad was the oldest of three, and they grew up on the same street in the Portage Park neighborhood of Chicago. It was always standard practice that two of my siblings would be with my dad at my grandparents, and two of my siblings would be with my mom at my aunt's — and then throughout the course of the weekend, we would just walk the six blocks and switch houses.

You didn't originally plan to go into ministry. Where did you first feel called to this kind of work?

After grad school, I started working with the Nehemiah Project, which is a transitional living home for boys aged 13 to 18 on 25th and Vliet in Milwaukee. They partnered with Dr. Bob Enright (of the University of Wisconsin-Madison) to start a program called the Forgiveness Institute. I got to teach the principles of forgiveness specifically to this population of boys.

What happened there to really pique your interest in ministry?

We really didn't talk about faith at all because Nehemiah House had a contract with Milwaukee County and was licensed by the state. What I could tell them was that if you forgive someone, you could have an increased spiritual benefit. But as a program coordinator, I would have after-school office hours if any of the residents wanted to come into my office and chat. And I loved it, because by the end of my time at Nehemiah, two kids had

MY FAITH MINI-PROFILE

Catherine Orr Lumen Christi Parish, Mequon

Catherine Orr has always found solace in her Catholic faith, experiencing, as she puts it, "the best of what church is." Through ministry experiences that have included everything from teaching at-risk youth in Milwaukee about forgiveness to providing pastoral care in rural Ohio, Orr hopes to invite others into that same feeling of belonging. "God works in every single human being and wants to have a relationship with them," she said. "That's innate to who we are."

- She grew up in the Lake Geneva area and attended Marquette University as an Evans Scholar, studying international affairs, theology and Spanish.
- Orr also achieved a master's degree in Spanish at Marquette, and last year



graduated from the Cor Unum program at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, Franklin.

- She worked for the dioceses of Youngstown and Cleveland and spent several years working in the Diocese of Green Bay, eventually becoming the director of their Department of Living Justice.
- A mom of three, Orr has been the pastoral associate at Lumen Christi Parish in Mequon since 2019.



▲ Catherine Orr with her children at her graduation from Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology's Cor Unum program. (Submitted photo)

asked me for a Bible and one asked for a Quran. It just goes to show that God works in every single human being, whether they have formal catechesis or not. There's that desire to know God, if you just have the opportunity to talk about it in a safe space. For me, that's really where I started to get the inkling of wanting to be able to work with marginalized and vulnerable populations — but also to have the ability to speak openly about faith.

What was it like growing up in a mix of rural and urban settings?

When we would go to Chicago on the weekends, we would see individuals who were homeless and people who struggled, and we would talk about it. My parents would always give money or snacks we had in the car to the people who were in need. But then, during the week, we lived in Williams Bay, surrounded by a farming community. It was not uncommon for some of my friends to be up at 4 a.m. milking cows before school.

How did those influences shape your view of ministry, and of church?

Growing up, the church was kind of like home base. We went there when we celebrated things, and we went there when we grieved things. My family found and built a supportive community around the church, and I saw how important that community was, especially when I worked in the Diocese of Youngstown. I lived out on almost 30 acres, and at times, it was very isolating. If a person was not intentional about creating and fostering supportive relationships with others, when life's challenges naturally happened, you could see how a person floundered very easily. But when someone has the space to be able to talk about life, and all of its joys and struggles, they are able to really open up and support one another through those moments, and that's the beauty of being church.

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